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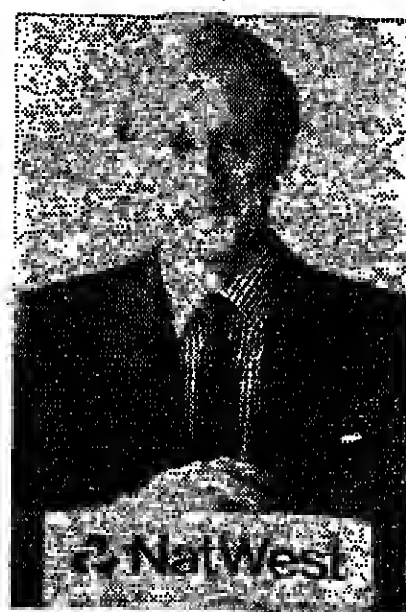
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HOME NEWS

Discrimination against foreign graduates on law course alleged

By Annabel Ferriman

The Council of Legal Education discriminated against foreign graduates by requiring them to train for three years for the Bar instead of the two required of United Kingdom graduates, it was alleged at an industrial tribunal in London yesterday.

Mrs Joan Bohon-Mitchell, aged 29, an English literature graduate from Columbia University, New York, complained to the tribunal that she was unfairly excluded from a one-year law course at City University on the ground that she was a graduate from a foreign university.

The Council of Legal Education would give a certificate of eligibility for the course only to a graduate from a United Kingdom or Irish university. She was told she would have to take a two-year course at the Polytechnic of Central London instead.

Mrs Bohon-Mitchell, who lives in Banbury Road, Oxford, and is married to a British doctor, told the tribunal that if she was forced to take the two-year course it would be three years before she was fully qualified, whereas a non-law graduate of a British or Irish university could qualify in two years and a British law graduate in one year. All barristers have to take a one-year vocational course.

Mr Ian Macdonald, counsel

for Mrs Bohon-Mitchell, said that the exclusion of overseas graduates from the City University course was indirect discrimination against citizens from the United Kingdom or Ireland and was illegal under section 1(1b) of the Race Relations Act, 1976.

Although the Council of Legal Education did not require that anyone wishing to go on the course should be a United Kingdom citizen, by insisting that all recruits should have a United Kingdom or Irish degree it made it much easier for United Kingdom citizens to qualify.

It is his case that a considerably smaller proportion of non-United Kingdom and Irish citizens can comply with the conditions laid down than can United Kingdom or Irish citizens, he said. "Of 156 people who have been granted certificates for the one-year course, there are 108 of United Kingdom nationality and 48 of a different nationality (69 per cent are British and 31 per cent are non-British)."

He asked whether there was such a difference between foreign and home non-law graduates as to justify such a regulation. The naked question that graduates from Dublin or Cork are better qualified for the English Bar than Harvard or Yale graduates is a pretty formidable thing to justify on any grounds, he added.

The hearing continues today.

Whitehall brief: The man who left to assess his own power and performance Business without bureaucracy proves a winner

By Peter Hennessy

In the space of a few months last year the Treasury lost three of the strongest minded individuals to carry the title of permanent secretary in recent years. With Sir Leo Plamondon, Sir Derek Mitchell at Trade, Sir Derek Mitchell at Guinness Mahon and Mr Alan Lord at Dunlop, Great George Street is a quieter, if less interesting, place, though the spooking financial effects of North Sea oil have something to do with the tranquillity as well.

Of the three, the departure of Mr Lord was the most baffling. Only 47 when he announced the intention of "picking my own winter" an appointment to the phrase used to describe the Government's industrial strategy, of which he was a leading architect, he seemed to have the eventual succession to the headship of the Treasury sewn up.

He gave the impression of liking power. A former Prime Minister praised him at an expenditure committee hearing. The Whitehall future was his.

Mr Lord is loyal to his former colleagues. A framed Times picture of the 1976 Treasury team sits in his office in St James's. He is not telling much



Mr Alan Lord: A question of satisfaction.

about the inside story of that autumn horridus, at least not yet.

In conversation, however, shortly after the first anniversary of his arrival at Dunlop, where he is managing director, Dunlop International, banding about half of the company's business, some clear hints emerged about his inner reasons for leaving.

Reading between the lines of his remarks, the view was detectable that in a bureaucracy, even one as small as the Treasury, it was difficult to get to grips with what was his work and his alone.

At the sharp end in industry, it is far easier to measure his performance and power. In Whitehall power is dispersed, less tangible and exercisable than in a company, hence the satisfactions are less personal.

He told me: "Consideration and in fact a senior civil servant is no more than an adviser to government and usually to a departmental minister. At the end of the day the decision is not his. On the advice he gives is based on the

case experience of people much lower down the line and so he acts as a bridge between the case work and the policy that needs to be formed.

In a company, if it is properly organised, the lines of communication are very much shorter. In a company analysis and prescription can be blocked-off by political imperatives which are a priori judgments.

It is not criticism of the way that governments reach their decisions. They have to be sensitive to the people to whom they are responsible. Undoubtedly in industry there is a feeling of a rather higher success rate because the environment is more favourable to decision-taking.

He visibly enjoys the good life of a captain of industry. But the old noblesse oblige of the district commissioner he nearly became on leaving Cambridge comes shining through when he talks of the pride he takes in looking after Dunlop employees and especially providing a better life for those in the Third World. He has yet to have his

first regret at leaving Whitehall, he says.

Though the frustrations of dealing with deep-seated economic difficulties have been lifted from him for over a year, he becomes his former, serious, gritty self when talking about them. The improvement in Britain's position since 1976 has been largely financial and he is worried that the country will "fritter away" North Sea oil in the way it has "frittered away" North Sea gas.

As his withdrawal phase from Whitehall nears its end, Mr Lord will probably re-emerge as a public or semi-public figure in the wider context of the nation through the medium of the Confederation of British Industry.

The quality of the debate should be much improved when he takes on the role he might have led in Great George Street in discussions about taxation policy and economic strategy. He promises to be as open then as he tried to be in the Treasury. It is something to look forward to.

£10,000 annual bill for child in local care

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

A place for a child at a community home with education provided was estimated to cost well over £10,000 a year. Mr John Red Price, director of social services at Islington, London, said yesterday.

With possible pay improvements for staff over the horizon, officials in his position are bracing themselves for the figure to rise to £15,000 or even £20,000. That compares with £2,500 a year to send a boy to Eton.

The high cost of places in community homes and for other residential places is part of the reason behind a new campaign, launched yesterday, to find a better way of dealing with juvenile delinquents.

Involved in the campaign are organizations that have to deal with young offenders: the Association of Directors of Social Services, the British Association of Social Workers, the Conference of Chief Probation Officers, the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, and the National Association of Probation Officers.

Not only was custody expensive, but it was grossly ineffective, Professor Alan Little, professor of social administration at Goldsmiths' College, London University, said. He gave the cost of keeping someone in

borstal or a detention centre as between £93 and £96 a week.

But seven out of 10 from detention centres and eight out of 10 from borstals were convicted again within two years. That form of treatment was no more effective than any other available to the court, he said. Some had to be in secure accommodation, but it should be used as a last resort. People had to be helped to live in the outside world.

Community service orders cost £250 a year for each person and probation and supervision £150 a year, he said.

Referring to demands for tougher penalties, Mr Christopher Andrews, general secretary of the British Association of Social Workers, described as untrue the assumption that youngsters were being dealt with in a sloppier way than in the past.

"We have more kids in institutional care or borstal than before. Thirty-five per cent of first offenders before the court are subject to care orders, Mr Andrews said.

The campaign wants local authorities to use more schemes such as professional fostering in which difficult young people are given support in a family setting. Community service, in which juveniles help others, is also recommended. The idea is that local authorities should try other means before recommending that a youngster be removed from home.



The Duchess of Kent having a quiet word with Mrs Naomi James, the yachtswoman, during the Women of the Year luncheon in London yesterday (Report, page 17).

Bail for man charged with football supporter's murder

A Birmingham man accused of the murder of a Chelsea football supporter during a scuffle before the Birmingham City and Chelsea game last Saturday was granted bail yesterday when he appeared before Mr J. F. Milward, the Birmingham stipendiary magistrate.

The court was told that the Chelsea supporter, Vernon Brown, of Sparshill, Birmingham, was killed instantly when he fell under the wheels of a double-deck bus. Mr George Jonas, for the defence, said the

circumstances seemed to point to a glibly accident. He asked for reporting restrictions to be lifted and joined the police in appealing to any witnesses of the incident to come forward to help to establish what happened.

Terence Martin Sberlock, aged 22, a builder's labourer, of Cambridge Drive, Chislehurst, Birmingham, was remanded until October 30 charged with murdering Mr Brown.

Third scout suffering from typhoid

Mr Maurice Durham, an assistant Scout leader, has typhoid, the South West Regional Health Authority confirmed yesterday. Mr Durham, aged 29, an engineer at Berkeley power station, had been in isolation at Ham Green Hospital, near Bristol, since last Thursday and is the third member of a recent Scout expedition to Portugal to contract the disease.

With Mr Durham in the infectious diseases unit is Stephen Davies, aged 16, a trainee architect from Hurdley, near Gloucester, who was confirmed as having typhoid last week. The third expedition member with typhoid is Mr Peter Martin, aged 19, from Salford, Lancashire.

The health authority said in Bristol that Mr Durham and Stephen Davies were both "comfortable" and would probably be going home soon. About thirty of their close contacts will continue to be screened during the next few weeks for symptoms of the disease, which has recently affected several people returning from abroad.

Blaze started by incendiaries

Forensic scientists were called in yesterday after incendiary devices started a blaze which swept through the Globe works, in Penistone Road, Sheffield. Seven devices exploded in succession and within minutes the premises, in which are several engineering companies, were engulfed in flame. As firemen fought to bring the outbreak under control, more devices exploded. Three floors of the building were damaged.

Cricketer banned

Richard Lumb, aged 28, the Yorkshire cricketer, of Lancaster Crescent, Tickhill, Doncaster, was fined £50 and disqualified from driving for a year by Leeds magistrates yesterday after he admitted driving with too much alcohol in his blood.

Victim discharged

Mrs Hilda Witcomb, aged 70, the mother of Mrs Janet Parker, who died of smallpox in Birmingham, has been discharged from hospital. Mrs Witcomb, who contracted the disease from her daughter, is now in quarantine.

Petition for a referendum on electoral reform

By Iain Bradley

The Electoral Reform Society is organizing a petition calling on the Government to hold a referendum to enable electors to choose between the present electoral system and the use of the single transferable vote.

Miss Enid Lakeman, the director, said the society did not like the referendum as a constitutional device but felt it was suitable for deciding on electoral reform "because MPs are not the best judges of the way that they should be elected."

The society will distribute copies of the petition at the Conservative and Labour party conferences next month. It will be presented in Parliament in November.

Miss Elizabeth Lyon, research officer of the Conservative Action for Electoral Reform, said: "We support the idea of a constitutional referendum to ask people if they favour proportional representation."

"But we would rather it was couched in general terms, not in the specific terms of the

Electoral Reform Society's petition, which offers the single transferable vote as the only option available." She said that the society had favoured the additional member system.

Miss Lyon said that support for electoral reform had grown considerably in the Conservative Parliamentary Party within the past nine months. More than 100 Conservative MPs and 150 peers had voted for proportional representation in divisions on the Scotland and Wales Bills.

She said there were now 36 Conservative MPs and 51 peers in the Conservative Action for Electoral Reform. At a fringe meeting at the Conservative Party conference in Brighton Mr Reg Prentice and Mr Rhodes Boyson will debate the merits of proportional representation.

Electoral reform is also likely to come up during the constitutional debate at the conference. The proposer of the motion which has been selected for debate, Mr John Chavlin, is an enthusiast for proportional representation.

Clues to medieval parliament unearthed on store site

Deep beneath the neat array of woollens and consumables in the new branch of Marks and Spencer which is to open in Perth will lie the site of remains of an old Scottish parliament.

Where Bruce's axe once cracked the skulls of quillings, tillis already ring in geotier combat. The concrete and brick of a modern town centre overlay the old site, sealing it for ever. No one could have guessed that archaeological work will be pressing Sir Marcus Siff to move his foundations or his woollens so that a piece of old Scotland can be dug up.

The work has already been done in what proved to be the most significant British archaeological rescue operations. More than 200,000 artifacts have been unearthed, spurs, seals and ampullas, animal bones and insect legs, all of which are being studied for clues about medieval Perth.

The Perth High Street excavation began as a three-month attempt to beat the bulldozers moving towards the founda-

Regional report

Ronald Faux

Perth

tions of Old Parliament House, which historians believe was probably a centre of Scottish government in the early seventeenth century.

The excavation, in fact, lasted three years, thanks to the Manpower Services Commission and Job Creation, through which some 300 unemployed, including redundant academics, and reformed burglars, scraped away at the remains of the building and produced a rich variety of artifacts.

Mr Nicholas Bogdan, director of the excavation, said Perth had proved among the most

productive urban excavations in Europe. It ranked alongside those in London and York. Because of the town's particular kind of soil, the finds were remarkably well preserved.

Archaeologists concentrated on Perth because of its strategic importance and tumultuous history. Perth was seized in 1296 by the English, who realized that its bridge, to quote a local source, "was the only safe and certain passage between the north and south parties of this realm in all kyndes of weather."

The town was walled until 1313, the year before Bannockburn, when Bruce embarked upon his bloody retribution. Each succeeding period of Scottish history fell like leaves on Perth and the layers are now being explored. A computerized inventory of all the finds is being made and the variety clearly suggests there were several centuries working on the high street site.

Among the discoveries was a silver ampulla depicting the

murder of St Thomas Becket, probably one of only four of its kind in Europe. The Scots, it may be noted, prayed to St Thomas. The "stone" of Bannockburn as a way of further insulting the English.

There are spearheads and knives, beautifully carved bone and more prosaic finds, including a finely preserved shoe which had belonged to a woman. "Was it lost as she fled from Bruce?" "I doubt it," Mr Bogdan said, "she probably threw it away. There's a big hole in the sole."

The dig produced a large number of animal bones but there is no sign of the lion that Bruce is recorded as having kept in Perth. Nor was there proof that Parliament House actually housed a parliament, although Mr Bogdan is convinced by the documentary evidence.

The huge archaeological collection is to be housed in Perth Museum, within a hundred yards of where it lay buried for more than 600 years.

CROWN AGENTS TRIBUNAL

Relationship with the Bank of England 'not one of openness and frankness'

By Philip Webster and Derek Barnett

The attitude of the Crown Agents towards exchange control was at best one of bazaar compliance with regulations and at worst one of duplicity in their relationship with the Bank of England, the tribunal of inquiry investigating the financial losses of the Crown Agents between 1967 and 1974 was told yesterday.

Opening his address on the fifth day of the inquiry, Mr Peter Scott, QC, for the tribunal, said that that was the way it appeared from documents he would be putting the inquiry.

He said that that topic had only recently come within the area the tribunal would investigate and the inquiries of the Treasury Solicitor were not complete.

Those members of the Crown Agents' staff and other people concerned had not yet had an opportunity to express their views and give their explanations on matters that appeared in the documents, and it would be wrong for anybody to form a final view until that had been done.

The Fay inquiry, he said, was a considerable extent inhibited from going into matters of that kind because of the possibility of prosecutions.

There is no evidence at all, notwithstanding the very considerable breaches of exchange control regulations, some of which cost the country's official reserves millions of dollars, that any individual in the Crown Agents or outside had

benefited personally as a result of these infringements," he added.

He would be producing prima facie evidence of one incident in which a particular individual was involved in a transaction in which he was endorsing over a substantial cheque in dollars to another individual.

But although that was a cheque payable to the Crown Agents, the correction was made at the same time as the cheque was endorsed over and the sterling equivalent of the cheque was received by the Crown Agents; even in that instance no loss was sustained by the Crown Agents.

Mr Scott said it was necessary to understand something of the nature of the Crown Agents' operation. They were resident at all times in the United Kingdom. It mattered not what their precise status was as to whether they were individuals or some form of corporation or emanation of the Crown.

The question whether they had any corporate capacity was irrelevant for that purpose and it was also irrelevant whether they were an emanation of the Crown because the Exchange Control Act extended to the Crown.

Although the Crown Agents set up certain things that were called funds, those funds had no separate existence from the Crown Agents and no different residence from the Crown Agents. The "subsidiaries" set up by the Crown Agents were also resident in the United Kingdom.

Crown Agents' dealing with

non-residents, in foreign currency and investment overseas from 1966 to the end of 1974, fell into two distinct categories.

On the one hand they held sums of money and portfolios of investment on behalf of foreign principals, including a large number of foreign governments and public authorities abroad. They managed those funds and portfolios as agents and in some cases nominees, receiving investment in their own names.

That portfolio management business was of a kind familiar in merchant banking and other banking operations. Each principal had his own account and the profits and losses on the portfolio were for the account of the principal. To return the Crown Agents received management fees.

That business was substantial. On December 31, 1970, the Crown Agents were managing stocks, shares, bonds and money worth £824m and had in their possession, 85,000 fine ounces of gold; by the end of 1974 the funds and portfolios in their management were worth £719m, a drop of more than £100m, and the same amount of gold.

He said that no question arose—at least not today—about the management of those portfolios. The Bank of England were aware that the Crown Agents were managing those portfolios. They plainly gave their assent to what was happening with them. Those sums were only part, albeit the largest, of the sums being handled by the Crown Agents, which came within the purview

of the exchange control regulations.

Even without the business he would later mention, the Crown Agents were custodians of sterling balances to the tune of 24 per cent of the country's entire official reserves.

"If ever a public body with such a heavy responsibility ought to have ensured that it had a proper system for exchange control it was the Crown Agents. Unfortunately it appears they had nothing of the kind," he said.

There appeared to have been no proper system for ensuring that the exchange control regulations were complied with, no proper system for educating those who were responsible for carrying out transactions within the purview of exchange control and no proper system of picking up breaches of exchange control that might inadvertently have occurred.

He said that one of the most worrying features of the affair was the relationship between the Crown Agents and the Bank of England. It was not one of openness and frankness by the Crown Agents.

There is no doubt that the Bank of England were concerned about whether or not the Crown Agents were complying with their obligations in respect of exchange control and about their inability to extract from the Crown Agents a full description and account of their operations to enable the Bank of England to form a view about them," he said.

In a slightly different context the Bank of England had expressed its views about the

Crown Agents in a way that accurately described the Crown Agents' attitude to exchange control. The Bank said: "The Crown Agents appear to have ignored the fact of the perilous situation to which their activities and some of the coffee appears to be erasing."

Turning to the second category, the acceptance of deposits from principals, or depositors and customers, and using them for investments as they chose, Mr Scott said that in the early days before 1966 the system seemed to have been that the interest payable on those deposits was calculated in arrears.

The Crown Agents waited to see how well they had done on the other side of the balance sheet before deciding how much interest to pay to their depositors. That became known as the "cooperative theory."

But during the period with which the inquiry was concerned a different method of operation came into existence, and it was much more the standard banking type of approach. A customer would ring up, say he had a sum of money to deposit and the Crown Agents would quote him a rate of interest.

In other words, the customer knew when he placed his money with them how long it would be there and what rate of interest he would receive for it. Those deposits provided a considerable part of the money then used by the Crown Agents for their "own account" activities.

Mr Scott said that the relationship between the Crown Agents and those depositors,

principals and customers was simple—it was of debtor and creditor. When the deposit was made, the principal became the creditor and the Crown Agents owed him that sum of money and, as it accrued, the interest on it.

At no time were the principals and depositors at risk. As long as the Crown Agents could afford to pay they would get their money back. What ever happened to the money would not affect the liability to repay the principals.

That particular feature of their business and the question of whether the money was being invested at the principal's risk or the Crown Agents' risk assumed large importance for the Bank of England. The Bank were told that the operations were being carried out at the customer's risk.

Mr Scott said that a series of continuing and serious infringements of the exchange control law was involved in a Crown Agents' decision about 1965, that it would be advantageous to invest in American equities. The idea was to put up a sum in dollars and borrow another sum from an American bank, Continental Illinois.

The initial borrowing from that bank and subsequent increases in the borrowing contravened the Exchange Control Act. Another contravention was that having borrowed currency they should have offered it for sale to an authorized dealer, but did not do so.

The equities were purchased, but the portfolio was not successful. As the months and years passed the Crown Agents increased their borrowing from

Continental Illinois. Total losses were about \$6.5m. The most that the Crown Agents could have hoped for once the portfolio had gone sour was that if they went to the Bank of England they would be told that the cost to the Crown Agents would be more than the base amount involved.

The Crown Agents, despite a request by the Chancellor in his Budget in May, 1966, for a voluntary programme of restraint in investment in certain developed countries entered into massive obligations to make investments in Australia, one of the very countries specified by Mr Callaghan. The voluntary programme was intended to improve the country's external balance of payments.

The Crown Agents' action was not a breach of the Exchange Control Act, Mr Scott said. But it is a matter of concern when one remembers that this was a public body using funds obtained by virtue of their position in this country and which included large sums of dollars and other foreign currencies.

In regard to the American portfolio, he added, the Crown Agents, after hanging on for several years in the hope that the market would turn in their favour, reached the point where they decided they simply could not leave it any longer and must dispose of the portfolio and repay the Continental Illinois borrowing.

The inquiry was adjourned until today, when Sir Stephen Luke, a former chairman of the Crown Agents, is expected to give evidence.

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Marina 1300 Saloon
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Marina 1300L Saloon
\$3007.
Simulated urban driving: 30 (9.4L/100km); constant 56 (6.9L/100km); 39.8mpg (7.1L/100km); const. 75mph, 28.4mpg (9.8L/100km).

Marina 1700 Saloon
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Marina 1500 Estate
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Marina 1700L Saloon
\$3229.
Simulated urban driving: 30 (9.4L/100km); constant 56 (6.9L/100km); 39.8mpg (7.1L/100km); const. 75mph, 28.4mpg (9.8L/100km).

Marina 1300H Saloon
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Simulated urban driving: 30 (9.4L/100km); constant 56 (6.9L/100km); 39.8mpg (7.1L/100km); const. 75mph, 28.4mpg (9.8L/100km).

Marina 1700 Estate
\$3379.
Simulated urban driving: 30 (9.4L/100km); constant 56 (6.9L/100km); 39.8mpg (7.1L/100km); const. 75mph, 28.4mpg (9.8L/100km).

Marina 1700H Saloon
\$3556.
Simulated urban driving: 30 (9.4L/100km); constant 56 (6.9L/100km); 39.8mpg (7.1L/100km); const. 75mph, 28.4mpg (9.8L/100km).

Marina 1700L Estate
\$3615.
Simulated urban driving: 30 (9.4L/100km); constant 56 (6.9L/100km); 39.8mpg (7.1L/100km); const. 75mph, 28.4mpg (9.8L/100km).

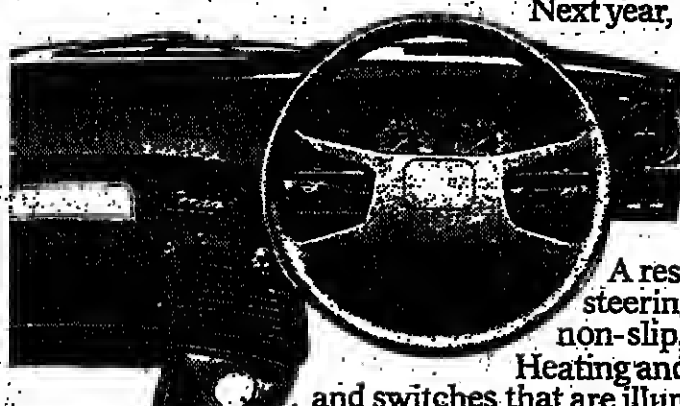
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WORTHINGTON'S

Next year, a few saloons should feature at least some of these.

Design for good driving.



Next year, a top saloon should give you clear, comprehensive instrumentation, housed in an energy-absorbing, colour keyed fascia.

A responsive, 4-spoke steering wheel with a non-slip, padded grip.

Heating and cooling controls and switches that are illuminated for easy night-driving. And safety features like a brake system warning signal with an illuminated test switch.

A lot of comfort for your money.



The top-range 1979 saloon should give driver and passengers a lot of space and comfort. Reclining front seats with safety head restraints. Rear seat armrest. Velour upholstery that's cool and colour-keyed. Firm, relaxing and scientifically designed seating for up to 5 adults. And

thick, cut-pile, fitted carpeting throughout, including the boot area.

Style that helps performance.

Next year, a saloon will need clean, unfussy styling with sensible design features discreetly built-in.

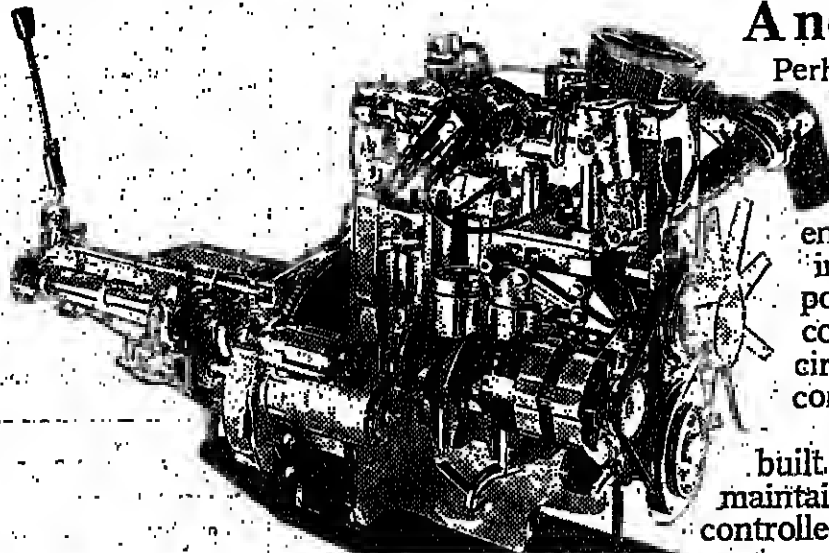
Features like this scooped, aerodynamic spoiler to sharpen up performance and road-holding.

Features like clear, bright indicator lights protected from parking knocks by a black rubber bumper-ridge. Features like the use of a matte black grille surround that looks stylish and resists corrosion.



Top-of-the-range luxury.

If you opt for the top model of a 1979 saloon range, you should expect a push-button medium and long-wave radio fitted as standard with fascia-mounted speaker.



A new source of power.

Perhaps the most important of all: next year's top saloons should offer you new standards of engineering under the bonnet. A new overhead camshaft engine, belt driven to reduce the number of moving parts and cut down engine noise. An alloy head to reduce weight and improve heat conduction. New side inlet ports to preheat the mixture and give efficient combustion. Twin exhaust outlets and a new oil circulation system to help improve fuel consumption even more.

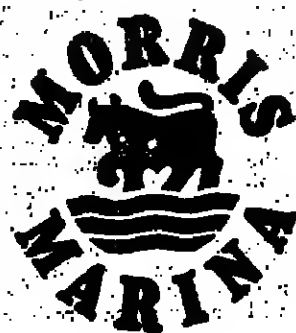
An engine that's compact, accessible and built to accept a light-emitting diode to check and maintain correct timing. A new source of power controlled by a new dual line brake system.

A '79 Marina Saloon has the lot. Now.

Everything you see above, and more, you'll find in the 1979 Marina 1700 HL Saloon. You'll find a great many of them in the other two 1700 Saloons, the 1300 Saloons and Coupés and the three Estates that go to make up the 1979 11-car Marina range.

The six Marina 1300 models are powered by the celebrated A-Series Morris engine, a power unit of proven performance and outstanding economy.

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Car featured, 1700 HL. Official Government Fuel Consumption figures: simulated urban driving, 30.1mpg (9.4 l/100km); constant 56mph, 39.9mpg (7.1 l/100km); constant 75mph, 28.9mpg (9.8 l/100km). Morris Marina 1300 simulated urban driving, 30mpg (9.4 l/100km); constant 56mph, 39.2mpg (7.3 l/100km); constant 75mph, 28.7mpg (9.8 l/100km).

From Austin Morris, a subsidiary of B.L. Cars.

HOME NEWS

Cabinet dilemma over 12-month rule as computer staff switch to private industry for higher pay

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

The Prime Minister has received a report about a possible threat to essential government services because of a rapid and accelerating loss of computer workers.

Wastage among 8,000 programmers, systems analysts and operations supervisors has risen to 20 per cent a year and in an attempt to stem the loss the Society of Civil and Public Servants has presented a big pay claim to operate from this month.

It would clearly breach the Government's 12-month rule, but the situation is now so acute that a political decision will have to be made on how to halt the loss.

The computer workers are being tempted to higher pay by private industry, which is also seriously short of computer expertise, largely because of national advertising drive by industry aimed at state computer staff.

The Government has the highest computer network in the country and Mr Campbell, the deputy general secretary of the society, said last night that by the end of the year many government services could be seriously affected.

The Prime Minister is getting conflicting advice from top civil servants. One internal review acknowledged that the loss of

staff "must be dealt with urgently if government computer operations are not to be imperilled" but Department of Employment officials are pointing out that the 12-month rule must be protected.

The union is seeking an increase in a special allowance given to most computer staff, which ranges from £130 to £500 a year depending on experience. It says the top rate should be increased to £1,000 and extended to all computer workers. At present operations supervisors do not get the allowance, which was introduced in 1970 in an attempt to stop the drift from government to private industry.

The union claims that after three years of pay policy private computer staff get up to a third more than their government counterparts.

Mr Christie said that essential new projects were endangered, including plans for computerized income tax collection and assessment; developing the job-finding activities of the Manpower Services Commission, which is already being computerized as an experiment in north London; centralizing the huge Ministry of Defence stores operation in armaments, ammunition and general supplies; and computerizing the payment of social security benefits.

It is acknowledged in senior Civil Service circles that the computer operation is already

seriously impaired by lack of staff, and Mr Christie gave a warning that computer operations like the payment of unemployment benefit might gradually break down.

Losses of trained computer staff at the Ministry of Defence, the biggest user of government computers, is understood to have more than doubled in the past year.

Basic pay, without the allowance, rises to a maximum of £4,579 after five to 10 years' experience, depending on age at entry, and it takes 18 months to recruit and train a new entrant. On present salary scales the Government has found it impossible to attract experienced staff from private industry.

The union estimates that it costs at least £5,000 for the first year's salary and training costs of a new entrant, which implies a £2m annual loss to the Government. The union says that is roughly equivalent to the cost of meeting its claim in full.

A team of senior officials from the union told the Civil Service Department that unless pay rates are moved into line with private industry loss of staff will accelerate rapidly. Mr Christie last night did not rule out the prospect of industrial action, which "could have a devastating impact on a wide range of government services," he said.

The young want harder line against hooligans

Young people favour a harder line against vandals and hooligans, and 69 per cent of them want hanging reintroduced for all murderers, according to a survey published yesterday by National Opinion Polls.

They are generally against the legalization of cannabis and support the institution of marriage. Political views are evenly balanced; 44 per cent of those voting age say they would vote Labour and 42 per cent Conservative.

Although a majority were satisfied with Mr Callaghan's leadership and disapproved of Mrs Thatcher, one in five did not recognize a photograph of the Prime Minister, the survey says.

Generally, young people are tolerant, the survey says. It was carried out for the Jimmy Young programme on BBC Radio 2.

They believe homosexuals should be treated the same as everyone else and object to the view that coloured immigrants should be sent home. They support sex education in schools and do not think sexual intercourse outside marriage is wrong.

Nearly 2,000 people between the ages of 15 and 21 were interviewed for the survey. The popular picture of students as left-wingers conflicts with the survey, which found that 53 per cent of those in full-time education would vote Conservative and 33 per cent Labour.

Unemployment stands out as the main issue facing young people, which the survey says, is hardly surprising as 18 per cent of the sample were out of work and a third of those aged 15-21 are in difficulty finding the right job.

Most youngsters either could find no difference between the main parties or did not know which had the best policies. Labour came out on top on unemployment, prices, strikes and housing, and the Tories fared better on immigration, education and devolution.

Only 15 per cent of those questioned in the survey were thought to be "relatively conservative" on social issues. Nine tenths of them think vandals and hooligans should be punished severely, 64 per cent want hanging for all murderers, 70 per cent do not believe cannabis should be legalized and four fifths do not think marriage is out of date.

About 63 per cent disagree that coloured immigrants should be sent home, and 61 per cent believe homosexuals should be treated the same as everyone else.

Their attitude to sex has changed. Seven out of 10 did not think that marriage was wrong, and a similar survey in 1967 two fifths thought sex outside marriage was always wrong.

The decision was taken on Friday by President Giscard d'Estaing, after consultation with the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister and the chiefs of staff of the armed forces on the future of the French strategic nuclear weapons after studies ordered by the Defence

WEST EUROPE

By-elections evidence of discontent over French policies

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Sept 25

The parliamentary by-elections at Nancy, where M Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber, president of the Radical Party, was defeated by Socialists, and in Paris where a leading Gaullist faces difficulties in next Sunday's run-off ballot, made yesterday a black Sunday for the French Government coalition.

These by-elections follow three other by-election defeats for the Government in the past two months, even though these were in safe left-wing seats.

M Servan-Schreiber, who described his own defeat as "striking", obtained only 41.54 per cent of the votes, while his Socialist opponent, M Yvon Toudon, scored 58.45 per cent.

In the fourteenth Arrondissement of Paris, M Christian de la Mazière, a leading Gaullist who has held the seat for 20 years, got 39.20 per cent. His Socialist opponent scored 33.01 per cent and the Communist candidate obtained 19.33 per cent.

These parties' voting discipline is good in the second round next Sunday. M de la Mazière is likely to lose his seat.

Neither M Servan-Schreiber's own personality, often provocative, nor the Government's plan for the salvaging of the steel industry, announced last week, could save him. He won the seat eight years ago in a spectacular contest against the Government's candidate, who stood as an opposition champion of the interests of Lorraine.

But now the tide has turned. Having rallied subsequently to M Giscard d'Estaing's side, he has been responsible for too many unfulfilled promises and for the high rate of unemployment in the province, which threatens to be made still worse by the reorganization of the steel industry, which its prosperity once depended.

Yesterday's results affect both parties of the government majority, equally. They are evidence of a strong wave of discontent over the Government's economic policy since the March elections.

This series of by-elections is a distinct warning to the Government. Car attacked: M Jean Lecanuet, president of the Gaullist UDF party, today escaped unhurt when his car was attacked near Orléans in southern France by demonstrators protesting against the proposed closure of the steel industry.

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M Servan-Schreiber did not attempt to conceal the extent of his defeat. "The black tide of unemployment makes blind and deaf the people who experience or fear it," he said in a statement after the results were announced. "The cry of the people of Lorraine and of Frenchmen... My sole duty is to say now that this cry must be heard."

He said today on the radio: "No one understands or sees what the Government's policy is leading us to. Before calling on Frenchmen for effort and sacrifice, one must first set up solidarity and justice."

At Nancy, however, there was the additional factor of the Radical Party leader's controversial personality. Many Gaullist voters, for whom he is a hater, either abstained or even backed his Socialist opponent in order to bring him down.

But the Communists have also lost ground, heavily in Nancy, least of all in Paris. The second lesson of yesterday's polls and of the two preceding ones in the Gers and the Pas de Calais is the spectacular progress of the Socialist Party, both at the expense of the right and of its former Communist allies.

The unrelenting Communist campaign of accusation and innuendo against the Socialists has boomeranged. In Paris, particularly, the Communist vote has come out of the first round ahead of the Socialists as the leaders of the left. They failed conspicuously.

More and more Communist voters are coming round to the view that the Socialist Party is the most effective force for change.

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Council in November of last year. The council had recommended construction on the ground that it was preferable to dispose of one of France's nuclear submarines as a replacement at any one time.

The decision announced today disposes of a bone of contention between the Government and the Gaullist Party. The Gaullists took a very serious view of the postponement of the building of the sixth nuclear submarine three years ago on the ground of economy, claiming that this would weaken the credibility of France's nuclear deterrent and implied a fundamental change of emphasis in French defence policy.

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Angelika Speitel: arrested after Dortmund gunfight.

Terrorist suspect identified

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Sept 25

West Germans were able to cross another photograph, off their posters of most-wanted terrorists today, when police identified a woman captured after a gunfight yesterday as Angelika Speitel.

Frau Speitel, aged 26, and considered to be a member of the hard core of terrorists, is wanted in connection with the murders of Dr Siegfried Buback, the federal prosecutor, Dr Jirgen Ponto, the Dresdner Bank chief, and the kidnapping and murder of Dr Hans-Martin Schleyer, the industrialists' president.

Frau Speitel and another presumed terrorist, Michael Knoll, 200-mile wanted and captured after they opened fire on police, who came on them near Dortmund. A third policeman was shot dead and another injured.

Herr Knoll, who is in a critical condition in hospital, appears to be a member of the terrorist fringe who have recently gone underground.

The choice of sites for shooting practice, within garden, houses and several roads indicated either a growing carelessness, or over-confidence among terrorists. Earlier this month, Willy Peter Stoll, another most-wanted terrorist, was recognized sitting in a restaurant without any disguise.

The ban is intended to prevent the capture of large quantities of immature haddock and whiting that are unavoidably scooped up in the smesh nets used for fishing Norway pout.

Mr Brian Lenihan, the Fisheries Minister, said 1 vessels would ignore the ban herring fishing in the Bristol of the Irish Sea, and warned the British authorities not to harass Irish fishermen.

Earlier, Mr Silkin blocked approval of a loose framework agreement between Spain and the EEC reciprocal fishing rights.

Unmoved by the arguments of his EEC colleagues that it would be seen as a grudging rebuff to a future Communist member, Mr Silkin insisted that there could be no agreements with non-EEC countries so long as the Community has not agreed on its domestic fisheries policy.

Warsaw: West Germany's Deemars has refused to accept 1d their share of the lobster fishing catch in the Baltic, by a commission of Litu states, fisheries sources say today.

Mr Silkin attacks EEC attitudes on fishing

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Sept 25

Mr John Silkin, the British Minister of Agriculture, today accused other Community states of being "interested not in keeping (British fish) open to their fishermen as it is the fish lasts."

They were not interested, said, in the fishing industry for the future or in community fisheries policy it would take account of the social and economic interests of members.

Mr Silkin's strong comment was made to journalists at an abortive meeting of E agriculture ministers at which he vetoed a number of Community conservation proposals on the grounds that they would provide less protection than measures already introduced by Britain.

Over-fishing and the destruction of fish stocks is not a security, invented by the British Government, Mr Silkin said was a common problem for the main fishing nations of Northern Hemisphere.

The Icelandic and the Azores fisheries have been destroyed and had most of the fishery west of Britain, Mr Silkin pointed out.

Everyone knew, he declared, that the EEC's existing fisheries policy had been hastily in 1970 in benefit of many, France and the Netherlands at the expense of Britain and Norway. The adoption of 200-mile limit had done damage to British fish.

The dispute, Mr Silkin asserted, was "not between member pursuing its own interest while the other is trying to uphold EEC principles but between groups of member pursuing national interests at the expense of one other and concealing their motive by an appeal to the treaties."

Mr Svend Jacobson, Danish minister, called on European Commission to Britain in the European Council of Justice if it went ahead plans to widen the area covered by the ban on Norway fishing off the west of Scotland from October 1.

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Britons are eating less porridge

By Hugh Clayton
Agricultural Correspondent

The area of farmland sown with oats is dwindling fast because of changes in the British breakfast. Mr Harold Philpot, president of the United Kingdom Agricultural Supply Trade Association, said yesterday that the oats acreage was disappointing.

Mr James Wright, group purchasing director of Pauls and Whites Foods, said: "Scotmen became disenchanted with their native breakfast some years ago. We shall not have a market for our off the farm unless someone can resuscitate the porridge trade."

The area down to oats in Great Britain has fallen this year to a third of its size in 1935, and a national yield of only 750,000 tonnes is expected, compared with a forecast of more than 10 million tonnes for barley.

Mr Wright said that much of the traditional acreage of oats had been turned over to various other crops. In Golden Promise the Scots had a variety that could be grown anywhere north of the border up to Wick, where they thought they could grow nothing but oats and turnips.

The acreage has fallen so fast in recent years that oats have been imported to meet demand from manufacturers of breakfast foods such as muesli. "There must surely be a ready market for anyone with good quality oats," Mr Philpot said. He and Mr Wright were speaking at a press conference in London at which the association issued its prediction of the harvest yield for Great Britain.

It expected a total of 17.5 million tonnes, including 6.75 million of wheat and about 10 million tonnes of barley. Mr Philpot said that wheat would produce a record national yield, thanks to increased planting and a season exceptionally free of disease. Some barley, particularly that sown in the spring, had been disappointing.

Boy killer is taken into care until he is 18

From Our Correspondent
Wolverhampton

One of the children who killed a Wolverhampton grandmother last May was committed at Wolverhampton Juvenile Court yesterday to the care of Wolverhampton social services department until he reaches the age of 18, subject to a six-monthly review.

The boy, aged six, was referred to by Mr Barry Riley, for the defence, as a Jekyll and Hyde character of sunny outward disposition, more intelligent than either parent, but the day bully and a terror to other children. Mr Riley supported the local authority application.

Mr David Parkes, for the parents, asked for a supervision order, with the child getting what care he needed to his home.

Mr Riley also said: "If you look at the history of this family it is a history of violence." One child, girl, was in care, one child had died, the boy had previously been in care. There had been allegations of beatings with a strap.

The boy was out of the control of his parents and the situation at home could only get worse because his anti-social tendencies were still in the early stages.

The boy's former headmaster

said he kicked and punched other children. She added: "I have the feeling that he enjoyed inflicting pain. If he could make other children squeal he felt triumphant."

Once in front of her father had hit the boy about five times with his belt. She said: "It was the only time I ever saw him terrified and it was the first time a parent had ever hit a child before in front of me."

Miss Christine Ballenger, a social worker, said the boy was extremely aggressive and very strong. She had seen him lift up a manhole cover, and he had to be pulled off other children.

Miss Ballenger said that on one occasion the mother told her father was a bully, an ape and King Kong. Both parents denied beating the child. The mother said she had seen the father hit the boy only with his hands.

Mr Riley asked: "Is it out true that the father laboured the life out of the boy and you tried to stop him and could not?" There was no reply.

Mr Keith Totman, chief educational psychologist for Wolverhampton council, described the boy as "perfectly normal, of average intelligence and a likeable chap." His unsettled behaviour was the result of variable and inconsistent handling by the parents.

Rare antique stolen by boy's killers

The police hunting the killers of Carl Bridgewater, aged 13, the newspaper, delivery boy, issued details yesterday of the antiques stolen by the gang from Yew Tree Farm, Kingswinford, Staffordshire.

One of the items was a rare nineteenth-century copper bed-warming pan which used water instead of the usual coals. It was highly polished and in good condition. The police have failed to obtain a similar bed-warmer, which indicates that it is a rare piece.

The gang also stole two brass meat jacks, two brass saucer-shaped candlesticks, three brass pokers, two pairs of old iron tongs and three sweet dishes made of pink opaque glass. They also took an old wind-up dark metal pocket watch engraved with the name of the maker, J. Brown, of Dewsbury.

Det Chieftain Superintendent Robert Stewart said yesterday that he was also anxious to trace the missing lids from two teapots taken by the gang as they fled. The first was an earthenware lid with slightly worn silver glaze and the second was white with a flower transfer.

Details of the stolen antiques have been given to the police. The stolen property has been valued at about £200. The farm's occupants have found that more items were missing than was at first thought.

The police said the weapon used to kill the boy, of Ascot Gardens, Worsley, was probably stolen.

Parents of five children aged 11 are refusing to send them to St Bernard's Comprehensive School, Old Common, Bristol, because they contend the school lacks discipline and academic achievement.

The parents of four of them are paying private tuition, 22 an hour, to teach their children English and French. The fifth is being taught at home by his father, who is a teacher.

Mr Michael Vincent, aged 42, a bookmaker, has kept his daughter, Michelle, away since the start of term. He said: "This is the only school that does not publish the results and the parents feel this is because they are poor."

Mr Norman Cresswell, headmaster of St Bernard's school, said: "The academic record of any school which has former sixth formers coming out of university, we regard as a reaction in the courts in terms of harsher sentences, he said."

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Red Brigades leader moved to Rome prison

Rome, Sept 25.—Corrado Alunni, one of the reputed leaders of the Red Brigades, was moved today to Rome for a confrontation with witnesses to the kidnapping of Aldo Moro, the murdered former Prime Minister, police sources said today.

Alunni, a former police trainer and electronic expert, is being held in a maximum security isolation cell of Rebibbia prison, eight miles from the city centre, according to police sources. He will take part in a publicity parade in Rome Wednesday.

Alunni, convicted of the kidnapping of Aldo Moro, was sentenced to 12 years and four months in jail—AP and UPI.

Billy Graham pelted with rotten fruit. Oslo, Sept 25.—Demonstrators pelted Billy Graham, the American evangelist, with cream, buns, rotten fruit and tomatoes at a religious meeting after the National Pagan Society had mounted a campaign against his visit.

Kidnapped boy freed. Rome, Sept 25.—Sardinia's longest kidnapping victim, Gianluca Locci, aged seven, was released early today by his captors, after 94 days in captivity.

Six drown in Tagus. Lisbon, Sept 25.—Three men, two women and a baby boy were drowned when their car plunged into the Tagus river during the night.

Corsica bomb attack. Ajaccio, Sept 25.—Corsican separatist guerrillas destroyed a tourist factory in Saint Antoine, near Ajaccio, in a bomb attack today.

French rail strike. Paris, Sept 25.—France's two main rail unions will start a four-day national strike on Sunday in support of pay demands and better working conditions.

Bombers fly the Atlantic in Nato support exercise

From a Correspondent
Ramstein air base, West Germany, Sept 25

American strategic bombers, B52 bombers, were taking part in a Nato exercise for the first time, General John W. Paul, Commander, Allied Air Forces Central Europe, said here today.

They are being used as "external" elements in the NATO exercise, in which the Allied air forces provide an umbrella in support of ground forces of five large field training exercises, including "Griffins Galore" the British Corps exercise, and "Warrior" the NATO exercise.

The B52 bombers carried out their high-level bombing tasks direct from bases in the United States. They crossed the Atlantic in a "hopper" mode, on simulated targets and returned in about 18 hours with mid-air refuelling, without landing in Europe.

Polish Primate's visit build 'bridge of reconciliation'

From Our Own Correspondent
Bonn, Sept 25

Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, the Polish Primate, is in Bonn today for a conference of the German bishops, bishops' conference, welcomed warmly today at the end of a six-day visit by Cardinal Wyszyński to West Germany.

Cardinal Wyszyński said the visit was a "bridge of reconciliation" between Polish and West German Catholics after the horrors of the last war.

In a statement before leaving, Cardinal Wyszyński called for greater collaboration and understanding between Germans and Poles. He urged them "not to ways to looking back to the past, although one must remember it in order not to repeat its errors." He said his visit, his first journey abroad except for trips to Rome in his 30 years as primate had been a "real pilgrimage."

Crowds of Germans people of Polish origin are the Cardinal's welcome in Mainz and Cologne. He is accompanied by his entourage of German bishops' at Fulda and on Sunday he part in a memorial service more than 10,000 Poles died in the former Dachau concentration camp.

Throughout his visit he emphasized the need for sides to work together peace and a Christian future. He hardly referred to the time atrocities. It was his men hosts who spoke of sins and guilt of the past who recalled the Polish letter of 1965 when they off their sins in a gesture of reconciliation.

Wyszyński's visit, brought process of reconciliation by that letter to its culmination.

he done in the meantime advance the country's and international position economically.

In his weekend television address, President Eanes outlined alternatives for the present government difficulties. These stressed an understanding between the political parties forming a government.

The reactions of the larger parliamentary party this was cool. The Socialist preferred his suggestion government with a parliamentary majority but without coalition as the most practical form of government, but some reservations. The conservative Social Democrats, second largest party, insisted on a presidential form of government. The Centre Democrats, had previously renounced past with the former Socialist Government, suggested "together with the Social Democrats" while the Communist flattered themselves on having combined with other party in the campaign against the President's of

Refusal by girl to give evidence in sex case

A woman said to have sold a young girl's sexual services to a man known as Dr Quack was cleared at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday after the girl, aged 12, refused to give evidence against her.

Mrs Iris Ingham, aged 42, of Wrobury Avenue, Widdington, Manchester, had pleaded not guilty to two charges: encouraging a man to commit an indecent assault on the child and aiding and abetting him in the offence.

Murder case acquitted. Mrs Simone Mawson, aged 42, of Furness Avenue, Dunstable, Bedfordshire, was found not guilty by a jury at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday of murdering her lover, Maurice Whynes, licensee of the Royal Standard public house, in Dunsfries Street, Luton.

Plea to end dependence of West on petrol engines. By Our Planning Reporter. There was a need to find an alternative to the internal combustion engine, Mr Roy Jenkins, President of the European Commission, said yesterday.

At the opening in London of the seventh World Planning Congress he said the West would still need to import half its energy in 1990, even if there were further oil price increases and radical and effective conservation measures.

It was essential to break away from such dependence. Ways could be revitalized and there was a future for all kinds of electric vehicles.

Better pay tempting former policemen back to force

Mr Mervyn Rees, the Home Secretary, said in Preston, Lancashire, yesterday that the recently improved pay and conditions for the police had raised firm recruiting applications to the Metropolitan force by two fifths. Within that figure were a number of applications from former police officers who had left the service and now wanted to return.

There was evidence that the rates of premature and ordinary retirement were dropping because of the new pension arrangements.

Mr Albert Laughton, recently appointed Chief Constable of Lancashire, whose force

OVERSEAS

Mr Vance flies home encouraged from Middle East meetings

From David Cross
Washington, Sept 25
Mr Cyrus Vance, the Secretary of State, returned to Washington early today, encouraged because neither the Jordanians nor the Saudi Arabians had ruled out the possibility of joining future peace negotiations between Israel and Egypt.

On board his aircraft from Damascus, the last stop on his 10-day Middle East tour, Mr Vance told journalists that he had always expected to have an answer "serious, hard questions" about the Camp David agreements.

"My own feeling is that we were able to give sound answers and I still feel, as I did when I left the United States, that the frameworks provide the basis for a real peace in the Middle East," he added.

Soon after his arrival in Washington he visited the White House to report to President Carter and his colleagues on the outcome of his talks. He was later flying to New York to hold a series of meetings with overseas dignitaries attending this week's United Nations General Assembly session.

Summarizing the attitudes of the Jordanians and the Saudis to the Camp David agreements, a State Department spokesman said today that both governments had been "vital" in Mr Vance's detailed explanations of the accords and "vital" in their support of the peace process. He expected that both countries would continue to assist their positions until a number of points had been clarified.

Asked about reports that the Saudis would now end economic

aid to Egypt, the spokesman said he had "no reason to believe" that such was their intention. The subject had not arisen during the meetings with Mr Vance, he added.

Meanwhile Mr Alfred Atherton, the Administration's special Middle East envoy, is continuing to brief a number of governments on the Camp David accords and other related developments. His two-week tour will embrace Iran, Jordan, Israel and Cairo, as well as some north African and West European countries.

Amman: President Assad of Syria is arriving in Jordan tomorrow for talks with King Husain. His visit opens a flurry of Arab diplomatic activity crucial to the fate of the Camp David accords.

Diplomatic sources said Mr Atherton would probably visit Amman on Wednesday to try to persuade King Husain to join the peace moves. However his visit might be delayed by an expected tour of Arab states by the king. Palace sources said he would first fly to Saudi Arabia.—UPI

Casablanca: Mr Muhammad Bouetta, the Moroccan Foreign Minister, indicated today that Morocco would attempt to act as a mediator between Egypt and moderate Arab nations and prevent the total isolation of Egypt as a result of the Camp David accords.

He told reporters: "Morocco will strive to maintain Arab unity and make the necessary contacts to achieve this," referring to meetings with the officials of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.—UPI

No secret deals, Mr Begin asserts

Continued from page 1

Applied only to the three-month period of negotiations with Egypt. He would be writing to President Carter on the matter. He assured the Knesset that no secret agreements had been signed at Camp David.

Mr Begin ended by saying that Israel was experiencing "one of the best periods of our generation." After 30 years of wars it was possible, "with great sacrifices," for Israel to sign a peace treaty with one of its Arab neighbours. There was a basis for the belief that it might soon be possible to sign peace treaties with its other neighbours. It was an historic turning point.

For the Opposition, Mr Shimon Peres, the leader of the Labour Party, praised the Israeli delegation to the summit for having had the courage to make "vital and difficult" decisions.

Mr Peres spoke sympathetically of the fate of the settlers in Sinai who, he said, had been sent out by the Israeli Government as pioneers, and were now being described as obstacles to peace. But, he concluded, there was no alternative to accepting the Camp David agreements. To do otherwise would leave Israel entirely isolated internationally. Protest at accords: About 500 Israelis from farming settlements in the occupied West Bank of Jordan and northern Sinai converged on the city by car and tractor today in a protest over the peace accords. Police set up roadblocks to prevent them from reaching the Knesset building.

In Yamit, the biggest Israeli settlement in Sinai, about 500 settlers and their supporters demonstrated in the town square today in protest at the Government's intention to order them from their homes.—UPI

Thailand holds 500 in jail without trial

From Our Correspondent
Bangkok, Sept 25

A Thai official disclosed today that 500 political prisoners were being held without trial in Thailand.

The Secretary of the Corrections Department said "not more than" that number were being held on the instructions of the National Reform Council, the governing military junta. They were regarded as "detrimental to society." Four months ago the Thai Government dismissed as untrue an Amnesty International claim that there were 3,000 political prisoners.

At the time a Foreign Ministry spokesman said there were not more than 20 and that 19 were being released by special amnesty 10 days ago.

One of their lawyers, Mr Thongchai Thongso, said today he believed there were many more than 500 political prisoners. He was himself a political prisoner of a previous military regime from 1958 to 1966.

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Rhodesia talks must come soon —Dr Owen

By David Spenser
Diplomatic Correspondent

Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, gave warning yesterday that a conference on Rhodesia was not arranged in the near future, a military solution would be "unavoidable".

Speaking on his departure for the United Nations meeting in New York, Dr Owen said the sooner a conference was agreed, the better. "I have wanted an all-party conference since April and many times we have been on the brink of setting one up. But if it doesn't come soon, the momentum of the armed forces, particularly the Patriotic Front, to a military solution will be unstoppable."

Dr Owen, who will be addressing the United Nations General Assembly on Wednesday, would not confirm a date for any conference, commenting that he did not want to promise anything and then fail to deliver.

Expressing his disappointment at South Africa's rejection of the Western plan for elections in Namibia, he said that the position now was very serious. "I believe we nearly had an agreement which could have had a profound effect on southern Africa. It is not totally impossible to put our plan back on the rails but it will be difficult." Meaningful discussion could not be held until the South African leadership was resolved.

He still felt that a policy of sanctions could be used against South Africa, but only on condition that the rest of the world agreed to "back it." Rhodesia, Dr Owen believed, represented a legitimate form of persuasion. "It would be wrong to conclude from what happened in Rhodesia that sanctions are ineffective. But we must be realistic."

While in New York, Dr Owen, who was accompanied yesterday by Mr Ted Rowlands, Foreign Office minister dealing with Latin American affairs, will meet Senior Rafael Castillo Valdez, the Guatemalan Foreign Minister, to discuss Belize. The talks will be the first since the new Guatemalan administration came to office earlier this year.

Nicholas Ashford, writes from Johannesburg: A spokesman for the British Embassy in Pretoria denied reports that Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, had sent a message via the embassy inviting Mr Callaghan for talks on Rhodesia.

Because of the widespread



Rhodesians display a novel anti-terrorist weapon, a multi-directional shotgun, which can be mounted on a car roof and rotated and fired from inside.

Mozambique raids 'kill hundreds'

From Frederick Cleary
Salisbury, Sept 25

Rhodesian security forces killed hundreds of guerrillas for the loss of two dead and two slightly wounded during their four-day raid into Mozambique last week, the military command claimed tonight. It was also disclosed that many raids had been made into Zambia since a wide area in the vicinity of the Frelimo Army who entered the area of the bases.

Bases had been destroyed, hundreds of guerrillas killed outright, with hundreds more lying around in the bush, dying of their wounds and with still more in hospitals. Arms, ammunition, food and clothing had been destroyed or seized, having a marked effect on the guerrillas' ability to deploy forces in Rhodesia.

From captured documents it was learnt that among 276 black prisoners held by the guerrillas at Vilankulu on September 19 were 10 members of the Rhodesian police and three Selous Scouts. Another document revealed that four of 264 prisoners held at this base in September had been whites. The four were, probably, John

nature and speed of the operation, it was not possible to give accurate casualty figures, but hundreds of guerrillas were believed to have been killed. It had been necessary, for defensive reasons, to eliminate armoured elements of the Frelimo Army who entered the area of the bases.

The statement listed seven other previously undisclosed operations in Mozambique and Zambia in the past three months and said they would continue.

Confirming earlier reports that Rhodesian forces began last week's operation on the morning of September 19, the communiqué said they had attacked 25 Zambian bases spread over a wide area in the vicinity of the town of Chimpeno. Zambia is the military arm of Mr Robert Mugabe's Zanu wing of the Patriotic Front guerrilla alliance.

Kernley, aged 17, from Bulawayo; Johannes Hendrik Maastens, from Headlands; Thomas Wigglesworth, from Umtali and James Black, from Melseter.

Other captured documents included a letter dated September 11, headed "Gunmen in Beira" which included the possibility of the assassination of high ranking Zanu officials. There was a rough sketch plan of the border city of Umtali and marks believed to indicate positions from which the city was to be mortared.

The statement went on to say there had been concern in Rhodesia about the level of activity against terrorists. In fact external operations were "ongoing exercises" and would be maintained.

The command statement said that internal operations were continued at a high level and guerrilla casualties were already close to those for the whole of 1977. "The terrorist is not winning this war."

Neck-and-neck race for Vorster post

From Nicholas Ashford
Johannesburg, Sept 25

South Africa, unlike Britain, has no equivalent of Labour, prepared to call the odds on political races as well as those involving quadrupeds. But if political punters could bet on who was going to succeed Mr John Vorster as Prime Minister, it is likely that they would be offered even money on two of the three contestants.

The two front-runners in the prime ministerial stakes are at present neck-and-neck. They are Mr P. W. Botha, Defence Minister and head of the National Party in the Cape and Dr C. P. Mulder, Minister for Plural Relations and party leader in the Transvaal.

The third runner, Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, although still some lengths behind, has been making a sudden sprint. An astute bookmaker would have reduced his odds from 10-1 last week to 5-1 now.

Supporters of all three say their candidates have made headway during the weekend.

Dr Mulder is said to have picked up a few more votes after a report in Die Transvaler, which claims that a special inquiry into the Department of Information scandal had cleared his name.

Mr P. W. Botha, so his supporters claim, has won a few more converts with a tough weekend speech in which he attacked the West for its failure to stand up to Marxist encroachment in southern Africa. It is a favourite theme of his.

As for Mr R. F. Botha, an opinion poll found he was overwhelmingly favoured by the white community, both English and Afrikaans-speaking. The poll showed he had more than 80 per cent support compared with 21 per cent for Mr P. W. Botha, and less than 5 per cent for Dr Mulder.

However, the choice lies not with the white public but with the 172 members of the party caucus who meet in Cape Town on Thursday. If there is a vote it will be the first for 20 years.

Students face death penalty over 1976 Soweto revolt

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, Sept 25

The first big political trial arising from the June, 1976, Soweto uprising got under way today when 11 Soweto students appeared in court on charges under the Terrorism Act. All 11—one young woman and 10 young men—face possible death sentences. They pleaded not guilty.

In a scene now familiar at black political trials, the accused entered the tiny courtroom at Kempton Park near Johannesburg singing freedom songs and giving the clenched fist "black power" salute. They also hugged and kissed members of their families whom they had not seen since they were detained more than a year and a half ago, except during a brief appearance in a magistrate's court last July.

The 56-page indictment alleges that as officers, members or supporters of the Soweto Students' Representative Council (SSRC) they conspired to commit sedition and terrorism between May, 1976, and October, 1977. The SSRC was banned along with other Black Consciousness organizations on October 19 last year.

The indictment says that the accused and others took part in a series of 29 meetings at which they are said to have planned the June 16, 1976, pro-

test against the use of Afrikaans as a teaching medium in Soweto schools; called for protest marches and rallies; to keep blacks away from the police; planned demonstrations to make petrol bombs; planned demonstrations against the visit to South Africa by Dr Henry Kissinger, the former American Secretary of State; and organized the memorial demonstrations on the first anniversary of the Soweto unrest.

Mr K. Van Lierse, the prosecutor (who also appeared for the state at the inquest into the death of Steve Biko, the Black Consciousness leader) said it might not be possible to attribute any particular act to any particular person but they were all responsible for the activities organized at the 29 meetings. He said the SSRC had been formed from an action committee comprising members of the South African Students' Movement, another group banned last October.

Mr Ernest Wentzel, senior counsel appearing for 10 of the 11 said the accused did not know the exact nature of the case they had to face, and therefore could not prepare themselves properly. He asked the state to provide more information, including the names of people who would be called as state witnesses.

Mugabe vision of Marxist justice tailored to Africa

From Lawrence Pintak
Maputo, Sept 25

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Rhodesian nationalist leader who has been fighting for 18 years to free his people from white domination, sees Marxism not as something that will lay waste to an independent Zimbabwe, but rather as a system that will ensure that all members of the society will reap the collective benefits of freedom.

"I don't know what a lot of people in the West don't like me," he says in his soft, articulate manner.

Western society claims to be pursuing Christian principles. Is there anything to beat the principle of social justice to the whole people, rather than justice to a few (such as) Rockefeller and Ford? Therein lies the whole basis of social justice."

Mozambique, where Mr Mugabe and his Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu) wing of the militant Patriotic Front are based, has established a society where factories and farms are run by their workers, where all apartment buildings have been nationalized, where hundreds of thousands who could never read or write are now attending school, where up-country peasants are now benefiting from mass vaccination.

The judicial process is inadequate as it is in most African countries, capitalist or socialist, shortages abound and many of the luxuries and modern conveniences enjoyed by the Portuguese have vanished.

Surprising to the outsider is the fact that the people seem generally happy. The country is not the cold, impersonal place often pictured in the

West. Those Portuguese who have remained joke about what they have lost, then become serious and say: "But now we are all equal."

Mozambique, Mr Mugabe says, has tailored Marxism-Leninism to the African experience.

"If we are poor together, then that's acceptable. But if we are poor because a few individuals are rich, then obviously I can't accept that system."

Mr Mugabe, who spent 1964 to 1974 in Rhodesian detention camps, insists that Zimbabwe will be a non-racial state, with whites welcome to remain, as they have been in Mozambique. But he does not hide the fact that the "whites who stay will not find it easy and he offers no guarantees. Land will be nationalized, industry taken over by the state and privilege eliminated."

He has no intention of modelling Zimbabwe after the Soviet Union, or any other socialist state. "We are Africa's unique—indeed African life is traditionally centred around a communal system—and the Zanu leader hopes to draw the best elements from various socialist societies as Mozambique has tried to do."

Mr Mugabe is adamant that democratic elections must be held in Rhodesia before independence. If change comes on the battlefield, "it means those who have won will rule for some time before going to elections."

Not until then will the world know whether Mr Mugabe is sincere in his desire to build a society based on equality and justice for all, or if he is the potential tyrant that so many believe.

Royal Insurance looks after you. Fast

Situations like this have many costly and worrying consequences for the people involved. Help overcome these problems through Royal Insurance protection and service.

Royal Insurance

British Week opened in Siberia

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Sept 25

British Week, the largest and most varied exhibition of contemporary British culture ever shown in the Soviet Union, opened today in Novosibirsk.

Sir Curtis Keeble, the British Ambassador in Moscow, officially opened the five main exhibitions in a Palace of Culture. He said it was significant that the week was being held in the capital of Siberia, an area with a vast potential for future development.

Sir Curtis was accompanied by Sir Fitzroy Maclean, the writer, a frequent visitor to this country who will be the British host for the rest of the week.

The Week, which lasts until Saturday, has been sponsored by the Great Britain-USSR Society and the British Council. It is a long-delayed return exhibition for Soviet Week in Leeds in 1966. Political strains and other difficulties have twice postponed the return invitation until now.

of British technology, the week is wholly non-commercial, with the aim of making British culture and arts more widely known. As well as being only the second such concentrated foreign cultural event in Novosibirsk, a city of over a million people, it is the first time an important British exhibition has been held so far east in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet authorities, evidently pleased by the first friendly official British interest in their country for some months, have cooperated enthusiastically in the arrangements.

Senior officials at the opening today included local party officials and Mr Alexei Surkov, a poet who is president of the USSR-Great Britain Society.

The exhibitions are all grouped together in the Builders' Palace of Culture, a large new building with exhibition rooms, cinemas and lecture halls. On display will be British art books which have been on tour of the Soviet Union since the spring; an exhibition of British links with Siberia; Scot-

land—Tradition and Technology, which will emphasize North Sea oil developments; a photographic display of award-winning British designs; and an exhibition called Britain Today, which is later to travel to other parts of the Soviet Union, starting with Baku.

The Week will include a series of lectures on poetry, science and the arts. There will be a full programme of recitals by musicians including Mr Terence Judd, the young British pianist who reached the finals of this summer's Tchaikovsky competition in Moscow, and Mr James Dakin, the organist, who has been on a well-acclaimed tour of the Soviet Union for the past week. A Scottish piper in full regalia will play outside the Palace of Culture.

The event is being seen as of considerable importance in strengthening Britain's cultural links with the Soviet Union, as well as putting political relations on a better plane after the displeasure expressed by the Russians after the summer dissident trials.

OVERSEAS

Hanoi accuses Peking of massing tanks and troops on frontier

From Peter Hazelhurst, Singapore, Sept 25
Revealing a new phase of tension on the Asian continent, Vietnam today accused China of massing large units of troops, aircraft, tanks, and heavy artillery on the Sino-Vietnamese border.
Quoting from the military journal *Quang Nam*, Hanoi radio claimed that Chinese formations were poised on the border on two fronts. Although the radio did not name the areas, Western military attaches in Singapore believe that tensions have increased on the borders of Yunnan and Kwangsi, China's two southern provinces.
Last week, China accused Vietnam of having sent troops and militia men into Chinese territory in the regions of Ho Kieu, Luoyuan, and Ping Luang. In Kwangsi, two big Chinese military units through which supplies were channelled to Hanoi during the war in Vietnam.
Adding fuel to the tense situation, the Sino-Vietnamese border today, Hanoi radio declared: "While divisions of infantry equipped with hundreds of artillery pieces, hundreds of tanks, and hundreds of armoured cars are poised on the borders of Vietnam and other parts of Asia."
At the same time Hanoi claimed that China has embarked on a 15-year plan to subjugate Vietnam and other parts of Asia.
The situation on the Vietnam-Cambodian border also poses a threat to the peace and stability of the region. Hanoi radio alleged that Cambodian troops had crossed the border and killed 15 people.
"Chinese vessels have fired

Opposition editor predicts Nicaragua will have new government by end of this year

General Somoza 'political victim of own ruthlessness'

From Stephen Dowter, Managua, Sept 25

Senior Xavier Chamorro, editor and general director of Nicaragua's opposition newspaper, *La Prensa*, believes that the Somoza regime will be overthrown soon.
"The new republic will come. It will come this year," he said in an interview, though he gave no indication of how the opposition intends to oust General Anastasio Somoza, who has shown over the past few weeks that he has the firepower to put down a rebellion.
The towns of Matagalpa, Masaya, Chinandega and Estelí and the city of León are proof

of that. Large sections of them are in ruins and thousands of people are dead, homeless, displaced, hungry or jailed.
"The death toll in Estelí alone may be more than 1,000," Mr. Raymond Chevalier, an International Red Cross Committee delegate, said over the weekend.
The ruthlessness with which President Somoza's richly rewarded National Guard crushed the uprising "has killed Somoza politically," Señor Chamorro told me.
"It was the assassination last January of Xavier Chamorro's brother, Pedro Joaquín, Nicaragua's most popular opposition politician and journalist, that

caused demonstrations and a two-week general strike.
"I don't see how he can physically rebuild Nicaragua. I don't see any government or financial institution lending him money. He could destroy the towns and cities again. The people are even more determined now to get rid of him," Señor Chamorro said.
Carter envoy's visit: Mr. William Jordan, a special envoy from President Carter, met General Somoza for more than two hours to discuss the situation in Nicaragua, the Government newspaper *Novedades* reported yesterday.
Meanwhile, the Somoza Government today launched a

campaign of anti-communist propaganda blaming the left for the destruction of L.P.I.
"Provisional government": A provisional government of movements opposed to President Somoza was formed in Nicaragua on Friday, it was announced in Brussels today by Señor Miguel Castañeda, a Sandinista National Liberation Front representative.
He said the provisional government was formed by Sergio Ramírez Mercado of the so-called group of 12 comprising middle-class progressive personalities. The Democratic Liberation Union and the Democratic Front for Nicaragua were also represented and the Sandi-

nistas had pledged their support and would join the Government after President Somoza had been ousted, Agence France-Press.
"Buried alive" claim: Reports reaching London spoke of continued brutality with 23 young men shot dead by Government forces in a León street, and some victims of another execution being buried alive (Our Foreign Staff writes).
Refugees total: About 7,300 refugees from Nicaragua have fled to Honduras and 300 to Costa Rica, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said in Geneva—Reuter.

In brief

Soup was made of man's hands

Tokyo, Sept 25.—At least people unsuspiciously as hands of a murdered leader that had been cooked a soup and served at a Chi street stall here on July police said today.
Shoichi Murakami was killed with kitchen knives by five men, his body cut into 51 pieces to avoid identification, said a police spokesman. The hands were in the soup and were of five pieces. Five people have been arrested.

Storm hits Vietnam

Beijing, Sept 25.—A tropical storm has struck the north Vietnam province of Khabov and has caused heavy rain in southern provinces which already been devastated floods.

Seminar on torture

Amnesty International is organizing a seminar on torture Mexico next year, with particular reference to Latin America. Mr. Martin Ennals, the secretary general, said yesterday that the seminar will be designed to discuss the programme of action.

Freedom for 2,000

Jakarta, Sept 25.—The Indonesian Government will release another 2,000 political prisoners on Wednesday the State Secretary said.

White student jeered

Davis, California, Sept 25.—About 100 students jeered Alan Bakke, the white man who won a lawsuit to enter the University of California Medical School, when he addressed his first class.

Dissident to leave

Moscow, Sept 25.—V. N. Nekhrush, the dissident Soviet novelist, has been urged to leave the Soviet Union by family, dissident sources said.

Karpov escapes from noise of lawnmower

Batumi, Philippines, Sept 25.—The world chess champion, Anatoly Karpov, today left his luxury hotel because of a noisy lawnmower and an influx of tourists. He moved to a country club in the tranquil depths of a pine forest.
Karpov, a late sleeper who goes to bed around dawn, is thought to be in the middle of the gruelling 10-week battle to retain his world crown. He leads by four to two against Viktor Korchnoi.
It seems that Karpov has not been sleeping well. His assistants told march officials that on at least one occasion he had fanned Karpov over the chessboard after only one hour's sleep.
In their twenty-sixth clash tomorrow, Karpov plays while giving him first move—Reuter.

Mrs Gandhi asks permission to visit Britain

Delhi, Sept 25.—Mrs Indira Gandhi, the former Indian Prime Minister, today applied to a Delhi court for permission to visit Britain from November 10 to 19 to take part in celebrations connected with the anniversary of the birth of her father, Jawaharlal Nehru.
Mrs Gandhi, who is being prosecuted for allegedly misusing her official position to acquire a large number of cars for electioneering last year and on numerous other charges, has been forbidden to leave the country without the court's permission.
In her application, she told the court that she was prepared to furnish any sureties or guarantees to ensure her return.
Mrs Gandhi was India's first post-independence Prime Minister from 1947 until her death in 1964.—Reuter.

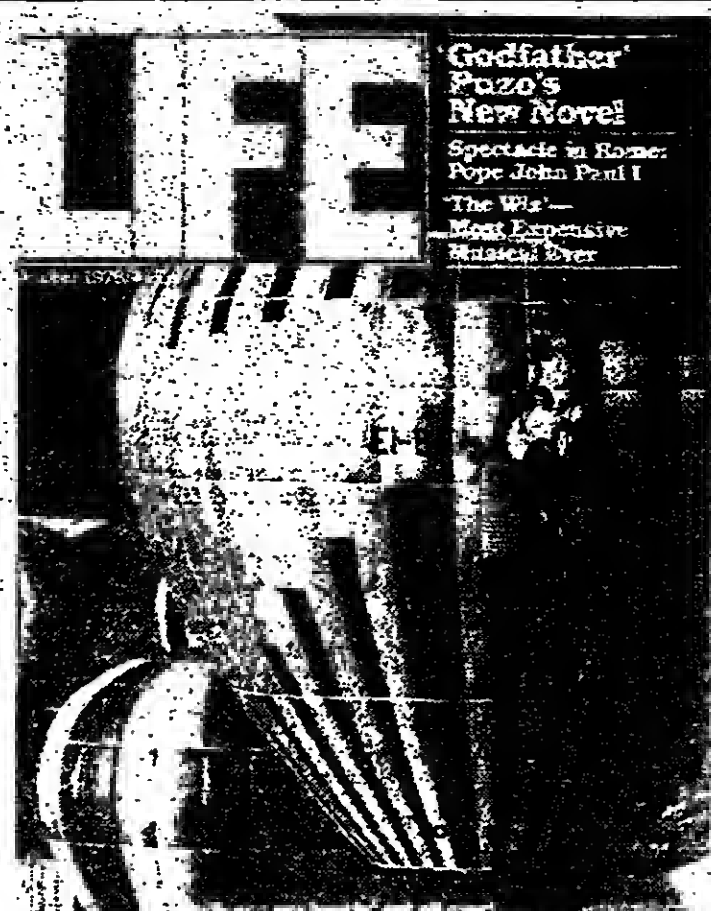
'Life' back with record advertising

From Michael Leapman, New York, Sept 25

Nearly six years after it ceased publication as a weekly magazine, *Life* returned to the news stands this morning as a monthly. The revived magazine, with 140 pages of mostly colour pictures printed on good quality paper, has a more prominent title banner than the old one, but in other respects remarkably similar.

Founded in 1936, *Life* pioneered a style of dramatic photography which was copied throughout the world and which thrived through the 1940s and 1950s. It lost some of its relevance as a news medium when television developed the capacity for often more thrilling moving pictures of current events and delivered them to people's homes at a speed that no weekly publication could rival.

Even so, when it closed in 1972, *Life* was selling an impressive \$500,000 copies a week. The reason it was failing commercially had to do with its distribution pattern rather than its editorial content.
Most of the readers had postal subscriptions, which they could buy at rates below the 50-cent weekly cover price. With postage costs increasing and advertising erratic due to the ups and downs of the economy, the publishers could not make a profit.
The new monthly *Life* costs three times as much as the old one. Subscriptions are available but will cost the same—\$18 a year. The initial print order is for a modest 700,000 copies.
The first issue of 140 pages carries 56 pages of advertising, bringing in a revenue of \$348,568. The publishers, Time



The cover of the new 'Life', which reappears as a monthly.

Incorporated, say this is a record for the first issue of any magazine.
The contents are so amalgamated of the stunning photography which was a feature of the old *Life* and of glossy features about glamorous personalities.
In the first category is a series of magnificent photographs of Antarctica, some pictures of dogs catching Frisbees, of sets from a new film, and a feature on a child with brain damage. In the second category are articles and pictures on the Shah of Iran, the new Pope, the teenage film actress Brooke Shields and, inevitably, Mrs. Jacqueline Onassis.
Indicative of how the magazine is playing safe in terms of contents, at least in its first edition, is its longest piece of text, an excerpt from a new novel by Mario Puzo. This defines its aim as being to sell to middlebrow readers who buy Mr. Puzo's novels (the writer *The Godfather* in their millions, and who apparently never tire of seeing pictures of Mrs. Onassis).

World Bank critical of US help for poor

From Frank Voss, Washington, Sept 25

Mr. Robert McNamara, president of the World Bank, said today that there was a serious danger that at least 600 million individual human beings will be living in absolute poverty at the end of this century.
The number "living at the very margin" in the year 2000 could be far greater unless new policies were introduced now by the industrial nations, he told the bank's annual meeting. Even the slightly better-off developing countries faced acute problems in the next few years, while the very poorest were in desperate circumstances.
The prospects for the developing countries were deteriorating because of the gathering momentum of trade protectionism in the industrial nations, Mr. McNamara said. What was urgently needed was a more rational framework of trade relations through which excessive barriers could be more rapidly dismantled and clearer criteria to govern those barriers that had to be imposed to deal with strictly temporary difficulties.
He added that to achieve even modest real growth in the poorest nations—rates that would be sufficient to eliminate the prospect of desperate hunger for four or five billion people—must be greatly increased by the industrial nations. He was particularly critical of the performance of the United States, West Germany, and Japan.
In 1970 the United Nations called on developed countries to provide annually the equivalent of just 0.7 per cent of their gross national products to poor countries through co-operationary lending.
But criticism was also made of the developing countries themselves, Mr. McNamara said. They must modify their economic plans to raise productivity among the very poor.

Iraq lifts restrictions on Shia leader

Teheran, Sept 25.—Iraq has withdrawn restrictive measures imposed on Ayatollah Khomeini, the exiled Iranian religious leader, who has returned to his home in the holy city of Qom today.

The report was based on "information received at Qom", he added.
He welcomed the Iraqi move but also criticized the original decision by the Baghdad authorities to restrict the Ayatollah's activities in the first place.
Reports that Ayatollah Khomeini was being restricted came from an Iranian human rights group in Paris. Their statement said that "Iraq, bowing to pressure from Iran, has agreed to visit" to the home of the Ayatollah—Agence France-Press.
Tony Allaway writes from Teheran: Mr. Javad Sayeed, secretary-general of Iran's once all-powerful Rastakhiz (Resurgence) Party tonight strongly denounced newspaper reports that the death of the party was imminent.
Evening newspapers had quoted him as saying after a meeting of party officials today that they had agreed the party should be dissolved.
But Mr. Sayeed said that it had been agreed that the Rastakhiz would continue to function as an "ordinary, independent party."
He added that the party's character would have to be amended to take note of new situations although would continue to remain loyal to the constitution, the monarch and the series of reforms initiated by the Shah.
All the party's many publications, apart from its main newspaper, would cease publication, he added.

Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Public Works
135 rue Didouche Mourad, Algiers
Directorate of Roadworks and Road Signs

INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO TENDER

EASTBOUND MOTORWAY FROM ALGIERS

The Ministry of Public Works is inviting national and international tenders for three (3) major bridge construction projects:

- Bridges spanning the Oued El-Harrach carrying the east-bound motorway from Algiers and the suburban highway Algiers—Ain Chaba, Suite area above, 12,500 m.
- Bridge spanning the Oued El-Harrach and carrying the CW11 two-lane double-carriageway road.
- Bridge spanning the Algiers-Constantine railway line and carrying the 148 km double-carriageway road, Suite area above, 1,700 m.

The three bridge construction projects are planned for the Algiers region, within 12 km of the city.

Tenders may be submitted for all three projects.

The eastbound motorway project also includes the future construction of a road viaduct, four curved ramps at the level of the Port de l'Est, and one interchange and one viaduct viaduct viaduct. Consultations on these projects will commence in the near future.

Tender documents for these three projects are available to interested parties as from 25 September 1978 against payment of 200 Algerian Dinars (DZD) to the Ministry of Public Works, 135 rue Didouche Mourad, Algiers.

Tenders should be sent in two envelopes to the Ministry of Public Works, 135 rue Didouche Mourad, Algiers.

The deadline for acceptance of tenders is 10 October 1978.

Bidders will be bound by their offers for a period of 90 days from the date of posting.

Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Energy and the Petrochemical Industry
SONATRACH
Engineering and Development Division
Directorate of Works and Civil Engineering

INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO TENDER

No. 9001/78

International tenders are invited for supplying filling pumps and high-pressure pumps.

Interested parties may obtain the necessary tender documentation from SONATRACH, Division Engineering et Développement, Direction Travaux et Constructions, Villa les Abres, rue Shakespeare, El-Mouradia, Algiers.

Bids should be sent by registered post in two closed and sealed envelopes and should be handed by 15 October 1978 at the latest. The outer envelope should be addressed to SONATRACH, Division Engineering et Développement, Direction Travaux et Constructions, Villa les Abres, rue Shakespeare, El-Mouradia, Algiers. The inner envelope should be marked "Appel d'offres pour la fourniture de Pompes à haute pression" et être adressé à Monsieur le Directeur, Direction Travaux et Constructions, Villa les Abres, rue Shakespeare, El-Mouradia, Algiers.

Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Public Works
Directorate of Roadworks and Road Signs

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TO TENDER

The Ministry of Public Works is inviting tenders for carrying out development work over 40 kilometres on Route Nationale No. 5 between Boudeauoum and Lakhdaria. These works will be financed with the help of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The construction work has been divided into two lots. But tenders may be submitted for both of them.

Lot No. 1: Complete road construction, including ancillary engineering work, but excluding bridges.

Chief quantities involved:

- Length of two-lane road, 20 km
- Length of two-lane road with heavy loads, 20 km
- Large-scale earthworks, 3,200,000 m³
- Drainage and utility road engineering work, 600,000 m³

Lot No. 2: Construction of 14 bridges in reinforced prestressed concrete, total surface area approx. 8,800 m².

Both lots to be completed within 28 months.

Tender documents are available from the address above as from 13 October 1978 on payment of 500 Dinars. As specified in the Tender Conditions, the final date for acceptance of tenders has been fixed for 15 January 1979, at noon, at Direction des Infrastructures Routières, et de la Signalisation, Ministère des Travaux Publics, 135 rue Didouche Mourad, Algiers.

Further information is available on request from the above address.

REPUBLIC OF KENYA
MINISTRY OF WATER DEVELOPMENT
INVITATION TO TENDER
MOMBASA AND SUPPLY PROJECT

The Government of Kenya invites tenders for the construction of a water supply project in Mombasa. The project involves the construction of a water supply system, including the installation of pumps, pipes, and valves.

The contract comprises the supply, installation, and maintenance of a water supply system, including the installation of pumps, pipes, and valves.

Firms who wish to be issued with tender documents should apply in writing to:

The Director, Ministry of Water Development, P.O. Box 30001, Nairobi.

Tender documents will be issued only against payment of a non-refundable deposit of KSh. 10,000. This deposit shall be by way of a guarantee for the tenderer's performance and shall be returned to the tenderer upon completion of the project.

Presumptive tenders are invited. Only those tenders which are accepted by the Government will be considered for award.

The deadline for submission of tenders is 15 October 1978.

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Firms who wish to be

Why Mr Enoch Powell is determined to prove that Ulster wants to stay British

Had there been an October election Mr Enoch Powell is serenely confident that he would have been returned to Parliament as the member for South Down to continue his campaign to keep Ulster integrated — on a firmer basis — with the United Kingdom and to exorcise the United Kingdom from the EEC. He is sure that he will hold South Down whenever the election comes — later rather than sooner by his calculations, though he is conditioned to the unpredictability of political life.

His objective is to increase his 1974 majority after the decisive proof of Ulster's settled resolve to stay British. Only the size of that majority will depend upon the pattern of vote-splitting on either side. Such a by-election demonstration seems to him of the greatest moment when English opinion is veering to defeatism over Northern Ireland. Just as stability and law and order are being restored to the province, at the cost of the lives of hundreds of brave men and innocent civilians, the English are increasingly accepting the view that the Irish must be left to sort themselves out.

For this reason, among others, Mr Powell thinks the result in South Down will be more significant than in 1974. This is best shown by considering the implications for Unionism (of all shades) of losing the seat. For then a front-ranking English parliamentarian, the first in 50 years to represent Unionism from an Ulster constituency, a politician who made Ulster's cause his own, whose very origin symbolizes the constitutional unity of the Kingdom, and whose work for that unity for four years has been pivotal, would have been rejected by Ulster electors. "Republican territory" would reach from Belfast to eight miles from Belfast. The loss of Fermanagh in 1974 to the republicans bears

no comparison. The end of Powell would be the beginning of the end of something far bigger than Powell. Hence he thinks it cannot happen.

But the figures suggest it could. Four years ago when wearing Carson's mantle, he spoke drenched with perspiration to tumultuous and cheering meetings, the constituency which a virtually absentee Ulsterman had held with majorities of 10,000 proved to be marginal when an Englishman contested it. Powell added 2,000 to the Unionist vote but his majority was down to 3,000. Today the analysts, looking at the votes for the rival Unionists in the 1975 Convention elections, fear that a split would lose the seat by a similar margin.

But four years of the sort of constituency work that raised a majority of 600 in Wolverhampton South West to 14,000 in 20 years has left its mark on South Down, which Mr Powell has served as (it is admitted) no Orangeman could, without regard to religious or other affiliation. He was told he was wasting his time with the Catholics. But it is his duty to serve them, so he has and does. He has, for instance, visited a house in almost every street in Roman Catholic Newry, where today he walks freely without police protection, affably greeting and being greeted by anybody who passes. They may not vote for him, but they say he has worked for them as nobody else ever has. Some of them may not vote against him. He is the first MP in South Down to have an agent with office hours, and he has built an electoral organization that hardly existed in 1974.

Alb. but, they say, his Achilles heel is that he is English. The Reverend Ian Paisley never lets the elect forget it. Powell used to betray



he was not Ulster-made, but to a polyglot the mastery of a cultural idiom is a matter of time and application. The black homberg is now laid aside for rather, as he impishly showed me in his Down home, is held in reserve if not in terror in favour of a country cap and tweeds. He knows his constituency townland by townland, knows its history backwards from today's Troubles through Cromwell to

St Patrick. He knows who lives where, what for, in what faith, from what forebears. Six-inch scale maps bulge in his card-pockets. And he revels in it.

He was taken to task for requiring Ulster folk to put problems for their MP on paper. Now they realize it is the only way to get results, now that they have lost their local Stormont MPs (who were almost members of their house-

holds) and their elective councillors. They are not used to having their problems taken up in Westminster. But they see Mr Powell getting through the Whitehall "colonial" mandarins who administer the land — through even the Brussels bureaucrats as the day-box fishermen, for instance, found when he won for them the herding quota which Brussels in the name of conservation abolished — along with their

livelihood. (The sort of job, he reminds people, that he will be unable to do for them when Ulster has three European MPs, probably including Dr Paisley.) His work ranges from maladministered planning applications up to major developments — though his ambition for a fast expanded car/containers ferry service from Anglesea to the top of Carlisleford Lough to open up southern Down commercially has been foiled.

Such constituency service is as integral as his set-piece speeches or Westminster interventions to the uncompromising constitutional doctrine that runs through Powell like Brighton rock, from rejecting the EEC to integrating Ulster. In the smallest constituency enquiry he feels at one with that intimate union or communion of people and parliament that makes the United Kingdom unique. Romantic? Powell will show you that our constitution from Crown down to an aggrieved constituent's "SOS" to his MP has a logic beyond even French genius.

Do his people read him? The polls at least show that 80 per cent of Unionists now favour integration, as Molyneux and Powell have made it a practical reality. That combination has won them the promise of the extra MPs, and will doubtless get it embodied in a Bill before the election — perhaps also a start upon democratizing local authority, possibly on the lines of Strathclyde's. Some may realize that the transformation of security at last derives from belated acceptance of the prescription, at least in part, Mr Powell put forward for beating terrorism in 1971.

Even so, the spell of Paisley's exclusivist vision binds many Protestants, and it is his power that makes Powell's friends fear for him. He is much disinclined to walk in fear of Paisley as of the IRA. He has time to top up his record (and he thinks Labour rule with Mason more benign to Ulster interests than the alternative). He will not waste it.

Roy Lewis

Roy Lewis's biography of Enoch Powell will be published by Cassell in the New Year.

Welcom relief for Peking's diploma

The news that banquet official airport reception visiting dignitaries in Peking to be established will be as both a relief and an appointment for the Chinese and diplomats there.

On the one hand, the frequent banquets, from the airport to the Peking Hotel, and barely a day without a picture of the statesman, were a time-consuming intrusion into the day. But journalists did not have to be near to famous men; it was useful to see leaders at reasonable quarters, if only because they were easier to get on other occasions.

The ability to welcome diplomatic line-up in welcome parades did provide a little color in what otherwise was dull — even if the reader of a little red dress and a pair of dancing girls in costumes.

There were also the hutton-hole som-man information darts the Chinese Foreign Ministry arranged for soundings on the H-chow a pregnant "no opinion".

The banquets were in ways more welcome. They provided a chance to exchange versions of the news, were literally captive audience for the questioner's gripe of the foreigners at tables they sat.

The diplomats in the time, ambassadors and affairs, had in at a banquet, and (usually) the same because they were ch according to their len, stay in Peking. They spend years meeting each at the same table, whether had anything to talk at not.

The invitation to a banquet was therefore usually with a grant of merit, the better part of a ing making desultory station, eating food which worse than mediocre by standards, and sitting seemingly endless speeches, each translate the language of the guished victor.

An army band sat at journalists' tables, at the end of the massive banquet hall, which seated several thousand necessary. Occasionally, band would play tunes to flatter the visitor. The Boating Song for Sir Douglas-Home, We Moulded for Mr. Whitlam, and the Forl of the wrong college for Sam Ford. Both anthems of both countries bowed.

Some banquets were ended by the eccentric beh of the visitors. For in President Mobutu Sese Zaire, who invited his hu of guests to pour their on the floor as tribute ancestors, and the Premier, Mr Chai En-lai, gently in his car. A comp was reached and Pr Mobutu suggested that pour their drinks into a front of him.

Some visitors brought own chefs to prepare banquets — usually with qualified success. P. Echeverria of Mexico, nately served Mexican covered with cheese, th of which most Chinese hate. But President Kim Il-sung of North Korea the best I have tasted Britain — and visitors y not want to show off th national cuisine simply hosts to lay on a "ret quet" in Chinese style, cost of about £15 a h now has some free, and be liberated from quant trips to the journalists and diplomat Peking will probably rare — but at least live- which the ceremonies go with the world of high

David B

The Master players

Bernard Levin

It may well be as many restless young folk, forever rushing from one novelty to another, would have us believe, that the motor-car is here to stay and that the horse, as the most usual means of individual locomotion, will eventually be supplanted — has indeed, in many areas, particularly the centres of our great cities, already been supplanted. Perhaps; but last Friday, at the Royal Festival Hall, my own eyes and ears provided evidence that, however much the quality of sound reproduction on radio, records and tapes may improve, and however low the cost of those records and tapes may fall (and the former is now close to the limits of perfection, while the latter has been reduced to a level that leaves almost nobody beyond a price-barrier), there will never be a time when so many music-lovers will prefer to love their music mechanically at home than the concert-hall will become an anachronism, one or two being preserved, at the invitation of Sir John Benjamin, to remind us of the way things musical used to be. So perhaps, the motor-car, undeniably useful adjunct to convenient living though it is, will still leave the horse and its function undisturbed.

I have often noticed the subtle but unmistakable difference between a concert-hall or opera-house (oddy, the phenomenon does not seem to exist in the theatre) and the modern, logical sense, by which is generally meant something around, or somewhat over, half-teens of capacity, and one that is full in the mathematical sense — that is, in which every seat is occupied, apart from the inevitable half-dozen empty ones that show where somebody's car has broken down on the way (serves them right for not sticking to a horse). The place seems not only more crowded, but more alive; the atmosphere that fills the foyer, and that throbs in the auditorium itself before the performance begins, is qualitatively different as well.

This, of course, is to some extent accounted for by the fact that some concert halls are entirely sold out; it is likely to be

of a nature that itself generates excitement. And last Friday's concert, at which the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, under Sir Georg Solti, played the Third Symphony of Brahms and the First of Mahler, was emphatically just such an occasion.

Anybody who has ever heard the Chicago orchestra conducted by Solti, even on records, and particularly anyone who heard any of the performances they gave on the European tour of which Friday's was the last concert (I was away for the two Proms they did, but I heard the Salzburg broadcast and was in Edinburgh in time to hear them there), will know what I mean by the excitement that such an occasion generates. The trouble is that for those who do not know it from their own experience, it is extraordinarily difficult to convey.

The Chicago is one of the world's greatest orchestras; true. And Solti holds a like eminence among conductors; also true. Yet it is the third leg of the tripod that enables it to stand, and he who can define the nature of that leg is well on the way to being able to define art. Some kind of electricity leaps from the platform to the audience when that combination is occupying it; indeed, as the Solti-Chicago ready flowing outside the hall before the concert starts, and is even generated by the mere announcement, months ahead, of the proposed performance. It is the same for the combination of Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic; Bolm and the Vienna; Abbado and the Scala; I had better not start on the giants of my youth, lest this paragraph should be unmanageably prolonged.

And these combinations do not necessarily guarantee perfection in performance, for even the greatest players and conductors can fail to catch fire. I am talking only about the feeling of anticipation, of the feeling that something remarkable is about to happen in the realm of

artistic communication is about to take place, of the pricking of the thumbs that in *Macbeth* signifies that something wicked is on the way but in the concert-hall denotes a different approach altogether.

So it was last Friday, and I am no nearer the ability to define the magic of the concert now, after reflecting on it over the weekend, than I was when I was in the hall experiencing it. Parts of it can be defined, of course; the fully-justified confidence Solti had in the band of virtuosi before him was obvious in every line of his body, not to mention his demonic smile, and the certainty that nothing is going to go wrong is itself a powerful stimulant. And it could be felt at its strongest, this stimulant, in the passage, from the last movement of the Mahler, which is not only more cruelly exposed than anything else in the whole of the giant score, but in which any error or weakness will damage the effect beyond repair. I refer to the stupendous cadenza (I know it's not technically a cadenza, but you understand what I mean) for the horns, in which the motto theme is heard right through for the last time before the *coda* sweeps all, including us, before it. Mahler specified that the horns should stand at this point, and I dare say the Chicago's players, when they reach it, are not exactly so overcome by an excess of modesty that they are unhappy about obeying the composer's instructions.

However that may be, they stood true on this incidentally; a gleaming arc like a stripe painted in gold on the subfusc of the orchestra's evening dress. As one they stood, as one they raised their bells, as one they blazed forth the music. If Solti had put down his baton, turned round, and addressed the audience through a loud-hailer, his words could not have made his meaning clearer than his face did at that moment, adorned as it was with a superhuman pride for which

he will surely be damned, a superhuman joy for which he will no less surely be ransomed forthwith from hell, and an innocent, angelic, straightforward, instantly recognizable gleam at being directly responsible for unleashing into the air so colored and melodious a noise. No part of him, or of any of his nine players, had any fear that one of them might crack, displacing the melody into a horrid discord; the horn-players of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra do not crack, and it is one of the great musical ensembles of the world not because the horns do not crack, but because nobody involved even wonders for a moment whether they might.

The horns sat down, and a minute or so later the final chord of the symphony was hithen off as cleanly as every one had been throughout the work (the Chicago's many-headed oneness in ending a sound is as astonishing and wonderful as the Philadelphia's famous trademark, the perfection of unity with which they attack). And it was during the passage for the horns that there was borne in upon me the truth that the reason I am unable to describe in words the nature of the bond that unites audience, players and conductor in such a performance is that if it were possible Mahler's First Symphony would be a book, not a piece of music, and would do its own work of conveying understanding in its own words. Music goes through different channels of understanding; invisible channels of an understanding that bypasses the conscious intelligence altogether. That, I believe, is why music is uniquely satisfying; it is simultaneously the reason that the noise made by the horns on this occasion was so affecting, and the explanation of why that reason cannot be conveyed, only experienced. I wish Georg Solti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra many more such conveyings, and myself many more such experiences. And I shall not sell my horse.

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Words, words words on a diet

For Lawrence Durrell to take up the flaccid cause of Basic English is as surprising as for Jack Falstaff to renounce sack of both the potable and amatory sort and join Weight Watchers. Durrell is famous for his English style. But the fame is not for the abstemiousness of his vocabulary; quite the opposite. Yet here is the verbose little word-magician, on a flying visit to London to launch two characteristically linguistic books, and at the same time campaigning like crazy for C. K. Ogden's basic, propounded in 1929 for debasing English into a basic vocabulary of 850 words.

Lovers of Larry's lush and fancy verbiage can relax. He has not taken vows of linguistic chastity. But Josephine Mignot, his maid in Provence, has expressed a desire to learn English. Teaching English on behalf of the British Council in Athens before the war, Durrell was one of the guinea-pigs

chosen to try out Basic English. Like Churchill, Roosevelt, Shaw, and Wells, he formed a high opinion of it. His students could bubble in the language after only a month. He says: "It was the most important invention of our century, apart from the petrol engine. It is a brilliantly functional correct capsule language, from which you can go on to exorcise 'lexically ad lib', with nothing to unlearn."

However, after a promising start, Basic English has languished. Durrell could find no textbook of it in print. So in London he has trawled down the surviving members of Ogden's Orthological Institute, and discovered the surviving copies of their fugitive texts in a cellar. This winter he intends to produce Basic English grammar and teacher, with a text, perhaps of Robinson Crusoe.

The trustees have given him permission to add to the terse vocabulary seven words, without which it seems absurd in French. One of them is "breast", for which Basic English has to construct a periphrasis about milk vessels. Durrell says: "I kept running into breast the whole time, and it

was holding me up." See nipples and die, Larry.

So Josephine will learn English. Ogden's invention may at last be recognized as the universal language. If it is, scholarship papers should clearly include passages from *The Alexandria Quartet* for translation into Basic English, a metamorphosis as arduous as that of Falstaff to a seven-stone systems.

I drew the short straw by having incautiously described astrology as ancient mumbo-jumbo, and accordingly had been challenged to show an open mind. About fifty persons, most of us persuaded that we are merely the stars' tennis balls, struck and bandied, which way please them; met at the YWCA in Bloomsbury. The hall was in fact marked for backmin-

ten, not tennis. There was much stony-eyed talk of the harmonics of cosmic periods, *Raphael's Astronomical Ephemeris*, and the minimal world manifesting itself in the atmosphere had similarities to that of a fervent fringe religious meeting. People kept apologizing for the slide-projector, which had broken down. Apparently it went on longer than scheduled. Every body was affable to the press. And there was undue emphasis on the galaxies of astrological books for sale at the back. Conversion was in the ascendant.

John Addy, a retired teacher and the grand old man of English astrology, said: "One would suppose that a tradition that had flourished so long and interested so many great minds would have something in it. Modern scientists are very hostile to astrology. But universal intellects such as Kepler, Dante, Goethe and Shakespeare found the subject profoundly interesting. They are as likely to have been right as our modern sages. It is really just a matter of keeping an open mind about highly significant statistical results over a long period."

Charles Harvey, the president of the association, said: "The world view of modern science is being recognized as inadequate. Astrological factors are part of the anomalous matter that the philosophy of science must take into account as it tries to construct a new model of the universe. Just as the liver cannot exist independently without a body, so you cannot consider the Earth apart from the organism of which it is part, the solar system."

OK, lads, par. If I substitute modern, pseudo-scientific mumbo-jumbo, and mutter it sotto voce, can I be excused the fortune-telling about karmic links? Then we can have the conjunction of the mind, and opposition of the stars.

Dry dock

Strictly speaking Marsala is not in Greater London, yet it can be smuggled into a London Diary because much of the support for saving the Punic ship has come from the learned societies of London. The latest dispatch from Honor Frost, the gallant director of the excavation, relates that at the last second the ship has been

retrieved from deportation to the Palermo Museum.

A more suitable final mooring-place has been found for it in an old Marsala wine warehouse on the sea front, looking out to the Egadi Islands. There was fought the last battle of the First Punic War (*Aegates Insulae*). There the ship sank.

The roof of the warehouse leaks like a sieve, and the ship has to be covered with a plastic sheet. The old warship that once strode over the wine-dark and wet Mediterranean, can today be destroyed by water or even atmospheric humidity, because it has been treated with hydrophobic wax: PEG, or Polyethylene Glycol.

Before the Punic ship is home and dry to its last port, we urgently need to repair the roof of the warehouse and introduce machinery to control the humidity.

Alcoholidday

Christmas seems to have become our annual festival of conspicuous consumption. Accordingly, Asprey's of Bond Street has put on a show of suggested Christmas presents of great expense, exquisite work-

manship, and generally awful taste; though since *de gustibus non disputandum*, I suppose we had better say: to the taste of those who buy their Christmas presents at Asprey's.

For those born with silver spoons in their mouths suggest adding, as a further matter, a gold brush, a gold comb, a gold dimmer, a gold costing £225,000, which to make your mouth well as your credit card. One of the few things that a modest man would know what to do with: crocodile-skin suitcases £4,400. But right it is, battered, and And in the luggage, a crocodile row? The crocodile as "Our customers all have private aircraft, sir."

He was at pains to say: crocodile-skin is not the same as crocodile. He said that the crocodiles wild, but farmed in St which must make the better through their tears.

Translations of a passage of Churchill's: Basic English, but into gese: At no previous time in a conflict's personification, the indubitably to an occurrence group keen on in the same ball-court.

Philip H



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

All this might seem mere philo-
sophical pedantry, but is of consider-
able importance in an ongoing
effort to complete Marx's
biography.
Yours sincerely,
IBOR FRANK,
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September 12-

An interesting aspect of the current pre-electoral controversy about law enforcement in general and penalties in particular is the way in which it ignores what happens to the majority of convicted offenders. In the endless arguments about prison sentences nobody mentions that for every offender imprisoned at least two are fined. This is even true of motoring offenders in the Crown Courts; and in the lower courts 98 per cent of motoring offenders and 90 per cent of other

non-indicative offenders are fined. Only where children are concerned is the fine not the common penalty.

For is this really a matter of choice. We cannot afford to change this pattern. It is not simply that fines are the cheapest penalty to enforce. Even if we ignored the extra cost of increasing the percentages of offenders who are imprisoned, put on probation or given some other form of non-custodial sentence, there are other factors that would make this possible.

Custodial institutions are heavily overloaded as well as costly. The probation service is less costly, but also overloaded.

Whether we like it or not, the fine must continue to be the common penalty, and offenders will continue to know it.

This being so, our fining system needs more attention than it has received. It is true that there have been improvements. Courts usually give the fine, and almost always in instalments without interest. Imprisonment for non-payment is treated as a last resort, and has to be preceded by a means enquiry. Busy courts appoint fine enforcement officers to visit the homes of offenders on the police. It is not criticism of fine-enforcement officers to point out that they are usually former policemen, so that their techniques are the same; and in any case they must work within the law.

The law allows property to be seized in lieu of unpaid fines; but this is attended

with such complications—among them the tremendous question of value to be obtained from hire-purchase, which it is seldom used except through defaulting companies.

The attachment of wages is a nuisance to employers and is often evaded by changes of job. The courts' power to order a search of the offender's person on the spot sometimes produces surprisingly well-filled wallets, but only if the offender is a miser. Inevitably, in cases of the traditional threat of imprisonment, especially when made visible in the form of a warrant, is usually effective; and even those defaulters who go to prison sometimes buy their way out of even a short stay.

It is interesting to consider the problem it is the crude method which works.

The way in which the amounts of fines are fixed is also crude, but less effective. Most courts have a tariff or rule of thumb for imposing fines for common offences. There is nothing wrong with a tariff so long as courts are prepared to depart from it when the offender's means are either limited or ample. The system, however, is about as one-sided as it could be.

Motivists who plead guilty by post can plead limited means, with some hope of a reduction of their fines. They could, but don't boast of their affluence; and they could, but don't show up in a hired car driving a Jaguar or Bentley the court has no way of identifying the rich offender, so that for him the usual fine is no more

than an occasional tax. The same is obviously true of fixed penalties for illegal parking: a strong argument against wholesale extensions of the fixed penalty system. Even when the offender appears in person the only information the court has about his means is often based only on what he or his mate or lawyer has told the police or the probation officer; any misstatements, not being on oath, are not punishable. . . .

The Inland Revenue knows better, but its lips are sealed. Yet if he applies for legal aid he has to fill in a detailed questionnaire about his income, capital and financial burdens; and if he misleads the court he is liable to be fined. . . . This does not apply to fines. Only when the court is considering imprisonment for non-payment must it hold an enquiry into his means. It seems simple to apply the same principle to fines. . . . There are difficulties in doing so they have never been explained. . . .

Yet even if courts had more accurate estimates of offenders' means, they have a one-sided approach to the tariff. The courts regard the offender's means as being reduced in the face of poverty, not to be increased in the face of affluence. The Wootton Committee on non-custodial and semi-custodial penalties, 1970, pointed out the illogicality of this and recommended that the tariff should be based on the offender's means as shown in *(Justice of the Peace (1970) 134, 937)* as agreeing with their view that courts were free to increase as well as reduce fines;

but most magistrates are unaware of this and resistant even when told of it. There have been recent exceptions. The prevalence of shoplifting by foreigners carrying large sums of money has persuaded London magistrates—usually stipendiaries—to forget the tariff and consider the large weight of this portable wealth. Fining £200 tourists, however, seems to be a different thing from fining the illegalised aborigine.

We have too little real information about the scale of financial penalties.

The criminal statistics for 1977 tell us that 63 per cent of the total fines were £5 or less; 20 per cent of summary fines for indictable offences were of £30 or less (mostly less); and even in the Crown Court the typical fine was of £30 or £100. But because costs and compensation orders take precedence over fines, the total sum of fines is a picture of the total sums which offenders are asked to pay.

There are minor issues too which are not faced. Should it be permissible to pay someone else's fine, as parents (and employers) of delinquent drivers (and others) could do, or not? Or onable? Should it be permissible to insure against being fined?

How effective would heavier fines be? Do offenders know the size of the fine they face? Where fines for illegal parking or speeding are concerned, they probably do. Where shoplifting or assault are concerned, they probably don't, unless they have already been fined for it. But

so many offenders are appearing before courts for offences of which they have been convicted before that even if finally merely reduced recidivism (a very cautious hypothesis) they would be of value.

Even an ineffective fine is better than no action at all. It is a punishment or sentence, since at least it pays back a little of the money that has been spent in dealing with the offender. What more, it has fewer undesirable side-effects than imprisonment. Even an ineffective probation order can have unwanted side-effects, which are probably more serious than the law and a waste of trained manpower.

I was a member of the advisory council which has just spent three years discussing the lengths of prison sentences. The committee which was set up in 1952 before long some committee or working party will be asked to devote as much trouble to the less spectacular (but numerically far more important) problem of the costs of the various methods of our system of financial penalties. It is a task with less humanitarian appeal than prison reform, and less glamour than innovations such as "new careers". It is a task which is likely to grow asparagus in the middle of a potato famine.

Nigel Walk

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Whatever happened to local government reorganization? It is a question the man in the street is entitled to ask. To other responsible people describe the reorganization as "a disaster" and the press talks of Government proposals to deal with "the worst shortcomings" of the new system.

Much of the hyperbole is no more than ritual political protest: Reorganization was originally a Conservative measure; but its implementation was placed under Labour administration, during a period of marked difficulty for local authorities.

inflation which knocked the new local authorities off course for at least two years. It is also because the run-up to reorganization took place in the euphoria of pre-revolutionary authoritarian structured staff establishments which would in a more astringent economic climate have been leaner. The disappearing authorities, in dishearteningly greater numbers now the country, committed long-cherished projects from which their successors, the new authorities, could not resile when the cold winds began to blow in the autumn of 1974. It is ironic that one of the main complaints of opponents of the 1972 Local Government Act is the unnecessary remoteness of county government. Ironic, because London's county proposals would have concentrated all powers in the hands of about 80 large new units. The control

of local government in England (outside London) would have been in the hands of these 80 main authorities and about 6,000 councillors, as compared with the 150 main authorities, magistrates and their 19,837 councillors who share power between them today.

The 1970 Labour Government's White Paper also proposed that education should be placed with their seven extensive metropolitan counties; so that, for example, startled peasants on the borders of Cheshire and Shropshire would have had their educational affairs decided in Liverpool. In fairness one should add that Labour's proposals, particularly those relating to the local committee for the main authorities, would probably have been much amended if they had been the subject of legislation. Nevertheless "remoteness" is not the

progrative of one side or the other.

"Such epithets as "remote," "unresponsive," "overlapping," and "forthright" are emotive words in which much of the debate has been conducted. Are there any *objective* points which can be made about the 1974 reorganization?

"First, the existing situation in the Royal Commission region (which in turn shaped the legislation) looked to a period of growth of local government activity. A 30 per cent increase in population by the turn of the century, a basic school population of half as many again as in 1967; a million new houses needed in the three largest conurbations; six million college-homes in England and Wales.

"We now have a very different scenario for the future. The population is static and the number of pupils is already

declining in primary schools and starting to do so in secondary schools; there is a greater demand for further education; the birth rate bulge in the 1960s is now in school, seeking jobs and higher or further education. So by the mid-1980s the greater period of "all systems go" in primary and secondary education will overtake the decline. The young decline in number, the number of the very old grow. Increasing house ownership, particularly by the newly retired, is changing the composition of local authority housing. All this is part of the scenario, so well documented in the Central Policy Review Staff's report *Population and the Social Services*.

Secondly, the reforms were to greatly increase the average size of local authorities. Prior to reorganization, 526 boroughs or districts had a

population under 20,000. There were, outside the counties, only 48 boroughs or districts with populations over 75,000. Today there are 20,000 districts, many exceeding 75,000. The new district councils have the resources to pay competent officials—the expectations of councillors were heightened by the 1972 election—whereas the new authorities were all to be equal. No one was over-seeing anyone else. The day was of the county and its districts was over.

With growth of local government activity cut back, and with the recognition that many districts have untapped potential, it is natural enough that the Government should take additional power for districts to do. What is surprising is that so soon after reform the talk should have crystallized into a government decision to take away the powers.

While the Secretary of State

of life and work. Then, the traditional rule in local government has been to disable county councillors from taking any financial interest in money for a function which they, in their own electoral area, are carried out by a district council. The rule is not dissimilar from that adopted, by MPs, by taking a disqualification in relation to Scottish MPs after the setting up of the Scottish Assembly. Measures affecting only England and Wales—for example, education and housing—cannot be carried by Scottish voters. Scottish MPs will suffer a disability in respect of matters of purely English and Welsh interest.

In view of the recent precedent and this long local government tradition it seems reasonable to suppose that the rule in the Local Government Act 1933 will be applied to any new transferred functions in

many who work in Seebol style environments.

On balance it is difficult to see how the two-tier system could benefit the public from the transfer of social services to the large districts. The service is a field-worker-oriented, with a network of area offices. Donor-taking is at the client groups (who are sure the people who matter) already decentralized and the local level.

The two-tier system is a workable principle. Both political parties accepted it as appropriate for the comrade.

Even the unitary system proposed by the Royal Commission had its second tier of local government, although with limited powers and duties. Whatever the split of functions, any two-tier system needs time to settle down. It is time to settle down. It is time to learn the mesh together. There is as yet little or

objective evidence as to the performance of the new system, but many subjective comments. The chief problem is that, while power is seen to be up for grabs, sensible joint working arrangements and experiments between councils and the larger districts become difficult or impossible. Political reasons apart, there seems to be everything to be gained in a period of stability and deferring of disputes until decisions have been taken. English devolution.

The man in the street, whom we stared, probably does not care that the 20 per cent told Reddie Maud's survey team in 19 that they favoured no change and a further 26 per cent didn't know or didn't care. The man in the street probably gives one verdict only—that it is what he will pay for his organic or serviced. May would be right in thinking that the only certainty is that changes will not make things cheaper.

John Boynton

The author is chief executive of Cheshire County Council and a past President of the Royal Town Planning Institute and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives.
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هكذا من الأصل.

Headlines and stories saying that Britain (or the world) was facing starvation by the year 2000 (or sooner) continue to create "news" while emotive estimates that 500 million people in the world are starving are 1,000 million hungry have become enshrined as "facts", are becoming immovably lodged in the folklore of the public mind together with a conviction that the world is becoming overpopulated. Many "futurologists" are convinced that the problems of world food and population are not technological problems of supply, but almost entirely political problems (in the broadest sense) of distribution. For at its crudest, the poor starve not because there is not enough food, but because they cannot afford to buy it. If we wished to, we could support twice the present world population with no improvements in agricultural techniques or technology.

Such a claim, in striking contrast to the usual gloomy picture, needs some justification. The first supporting evidence, I think, enough for a family with a child, is that of the doomsday fraternity, is that over the past two decades world population has not been increasing as rapidly as was

equilar, suffering from diseases which seemed to be due to protein deficiency—marasmus and kwashiorkor. Certainly these diseases responded well to extra protein food, giving the impression that shortage of protein was the root cause. But further studies have now shown that kwashiorkor is not a protein deficiency disease. It disappears even when basic food calorie intake rises, with no extra protein.

The true situation is that when the body has insufficient calorie food it begins first to metabolize protein in food to supply energy and then to absorb its own muscle protein—including heart muscle to keep the organism alive. Protein deficiency. Given enough staple food, however, the body is quite capable of manufacturing its own protein, from an adequate supply of cereals, and pulses.

Even the Select Committee on Overseas Development points out that 10 million children under world food problem is to give those who are hungry the means to feed themselves", recognising that there need be no technical problem of food supply if the need is met.

The poorest do go hungry, although not in the numbers generally cited:

order to provide more food for the poor, or that the few would be sold more cheaply they did. The oft-quoted "ideal" of zero economic growth would mean, in global terms, maintaining the sum on which the rich get fat. The only way to escape the medical "problem" in developed world while a poor starve. The only real alternative is to encourage high rate of economic growth in the poor countries. If the problem is one of saving the world from poverty, will the problem be solved.

From past experience, increased living standards do not only provide the poor with the means to buy food, but also bring a reduction in the birth rate. How much growth do we need? Any estimate for the future, but the target for an annual income level \$1,000 (at 1970 prices) in the poorest quintile of population. The problem cannot be solved overnight, but growth rates between one and four per cent per year would take Europe and southern Africa to this level by AD 2000, Middle East, Asia and the 1 of Africa by 2030, and all countries by 2050.

Nevertheless, given that we have the capacity to support the world's population

if not luxurious
es must continue.

help poor countries, and people in their own country to achieve an adequate diet. Even with limited aid, a country such as Britain can much to help by providing for developing country governments which are carrying appropriate policies of direct growth aimed at reducing inequalities and providing sufficient wealth—which almost invariably is synonymous with their own land—for the poor to be able to eat adequately.

John Cribbin a

Pauline Marstra
The authors are members
the Science Policy Resea
Unit, University of Sus
This article draws on their c
tribution to the book Wo
Futures; The Great Debate

John Foord

chartered surveyors

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

هكذا من الشجر

What hope for
the British
air industry?
page 21Further pressure on the
dollar as gold gains
\$5 to reach a new peak

Caroline Atkinson

The dollar fell to record lows against the Swiss franc and the Deutsche mark yesterday while the price of gold soared by \$5 an ounce to a new peak of \$19.875 in London.

The Swiss franc touched 1.482 the dollar before closing at 1.491. The Deutsche mark slipped to just over one penny at 1.542 to the dollar.

However, there were no new factors to explain the dollar's slump yesterday, as the market remained worried about an accelerating rate of inflation in America and about the ill large trade gap.

The prospect of President Jimmy Carter's speech to the International Monetary Fund last night did little to cheer the market as few dealers expected the President to announce significant measures to bolster the dollar.

Dollar selling appeared to begin in New York yesterday

afternoon. It came as something of a surprise after optimistic reports from the world economy out of Washington from both the IMF and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

A tightening of American credit conditions with a round of prime rate rises was also shrugged off as being insufficient to change the underlying weakness of the dollar.

Dealers were speculating on further falls in the dollar's value today and for the rest of the week despite the promised package of anti-inflationary measures.

The markets are very nervous and nobody wants to be the first to buy back into dollars.

Central banks intervened to help the dollar, but not to a great extent.

Sterling had a mixed day. It fell to early trading and fears about the Ford troubles, and at one stage the Bank of England stepped in with support.

However, the pound later

recovered against both the dollar and some major European currencies.

Its effective rate index, measured against a basket of currencies, finished unchanged from Friday at 62.8 per cent of its end-1971 value. It had opened at 62.5 per cent.

Against the dollar sterling rose by 40 points from Friday to close at \$1.9755.

The rise of the Deutsche mark put the European joint float—the snake—under pressure again. The Belgian franc and Dutch guilder both needed help to stay up against the Deutsche mark.

Prospects of French entry into a new European monetary system have weakened the franc in the past week. It lost ground against most currencies yesterday and dealers expect it will be devalued before joining a new scheme of fixed exchange rates.

It fell from 4.376 to the dollar on Friday to 4.3825 yesterday.

German warning on parity changes



Mr. Michael Blumenthal, United States Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. Gordon Richardson, Governor of the Bank of England, confer at yesterday's meeting.

From David Blake
Washington, Sept 25

The German federal bank accepts that in the initial years of the proposed European monetary system it will be necessary for countries which have inflation rates well above the lowest levels in Europe to accept a series of devaluations. It is felt that such parity changes could be carried out easily and painlessly, as is done now in the snake.

Acceptance of parity changes within the early years of the proposed scheme will make it easier, it is felt, to accommodate weak currencies which date back to the world war problems throughout the world. The IMF holds 'towards' the scheme, though this attitude stops a long way short of overt hostility.

Mr. Jacques de Larosière, the managing director of the IMF, in his speech to the fund session this morning.

He said that there had been "some encouraging economic developments" since the fund met a year ago, but it was still necessary to fight inflation, slow growth and pay problems throughout the world.

He also called for expansionary measures to be taken by strong surplus countries to switch the basis of their demand from exports to domestic demand.

Countries with weak payments positions and high inflation rates ought to concentrate their efforts above all on tackling the fundamental weakness of their economies.

It was particularly important, he said, to turn away from propping up inefficient industries.

In the fight against inflation, it might be necessary to place more emphasis on incomes policy to cope with the upward pressure on prices coming from depreciation.

While stressing that many

countries were struggling in favour of greater currency stability, he said that this could only come from a genuine underlying issues of inflation control in the United States and demand creation in Germany and Japan.

With the confidence this would create "limited and occasional intervention might suffice to smooth the market satisfactorily. Without such confidence, even huge amounts of intervention would do little good."

Although not explicitly directed against the European monetary system proposals, his comments carried overtones of the questioning attitude which the IMF holds 'towards' the scheme, though this attitude stops a long way short of overt hostility.

Mr. de Larosière welcomed the increase in special drawing rights and quotas which were agreed by the interim committee. Such an increased source of funds was necessary to allow the fund to play an expanding role in watching over the workings of the international monetary system.

The increase in the number of SDRs was also needed to keep them in an important position in the monetary system.

The mood of some optimism that at last things are starting to look a little brighter also permeated the comments of Mr. de Larosière on the world economy and issues affecting the international monetary system.

He called for a removal of protectionism and drew attention to the rise in German imports of manufactured goods.

He welcomed a recent States action aimed at curbing inflation.

Mr. Tatsuo Murayama, the Japanese Finance Minister, called on the United States to ensure dollar stability, and said that Japan's payments surplus was now falling rapidly. He made a strong plea for a share out of quotas in the next round aimed at giving a bigger voting position to Japan.

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While stressing that many

Mr Hattersley urges statutory powers to curb
advertisers who make misleading claims

By Derek Harris

Statutory powers to deal with "misleading" advertisements were urged yesterday by Mr Ruy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

But Mr Hattersley's further suggestions for controlling and limiting advertising on industry which is used to blunt commercial competition—including the possibility of an advertising tax—brought a strong opposition from the Advertising Association.

The association nevertheless welcomed statutory backing for the code of conduct as a means of dealing with the "few occasions" when both advertisers and publishers ignored the code.

But it was cooler about Mr Hattersley's suggestion that the Advertising Standards Association should have the power to punish an offending advertiser to publish a correction drafted by the ASA and paid for by the advertiser.

This might be an additional deterrent but would not necessarily benefit the consumer, said the association.

But Mr Hattersley, who was speaking at the National Co-operative Drapery and Fashion Managers' Association national conference in Bournemouth, stepped into even more controversial territory by urging the Advertising Association to investigate other issues, particularly the way advertising can be used to blunt the edge of commercial competition.

It could prop up producers of inferior products, enabling them to survive longer than would otherwise be the case, said Mr Hattersley.

A monopolist may plough some of his monopoly profits into forms of advertising which frustrate the prospects of new competitors, he said. "Advertising is an alternative to price cutting as a competitive device."

It was not obvious that consumers always gained from this extra input of resources.

Two examples of the potential economic damage from advertising were in recent Price Commission reports on the sanitary protection market and patent medicines.

This brought strong reaction from the Advertising Association which later "rejected categorically" the criticisms of the economic role of marketing.

Mr Hattersley said that imposition of an advertising tax was one suggestion to create schemes that would control and limit the use of advertising without imposing unacceptable restrictions on traditional liberties.

Powers could be taken to limit advertising by a particular company or group when there was a critical report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission or the Price Commission, he said.

But then there was a risk that any restriction on advertising expenditure could be circum-

vented by diverting it to even less desirable forms of sales promotion, "most of which are designed to trick the public into believing that they are getting better value for money than is actually the case."

The Government could also examine the possibility that a body might be created to examine advertising expenditure and evaluate its social and economic consequences, rather than the Price Commission does in its area.

The association said that these ideas would further circumscribe Britain's efforts to improve performance in marketing an area where the country had been losing out to international competition.

Mr Hattersley added that once the ASA was armed with the backstop of statutory powers he would hope to give it other responsibilities, including the duty to pay more attention to the concept of social responsibility.

Car sales slow down during autumn

Timing of Ford strike
favours company side

The strike at Ford could have done much worse for the company.

In addition to being in the healthiest financial position of all British car makers, Ford's integrated European operation and heavy reliance on fleet sales makes it much more able than its competitors to withstand a damaging strike.

Ford has the unenviable responsibility of being the vanguard of the Government's new pay policy, but the important period for car sales is now over.

The registration is nearly two months old, and the autumn is traditionally a time when dealers are struggling to get rid of cars.

The waiting list at the moment for Cortinas is between eight and 10 weeks, and for the Escort, nearly 12 weeks. These are Ford's estimates, but some dealers have experienced delays of up to five months.

Ford will be looking anxiously at the reaction of fleet buyers who adopt different criteria than the private motorist. Buying for a fleet is planned on an accountability basis, and transport managers are more likely to wait slightly longer for delivery than the fickle private buyer.

If fleet buyers remain loyal—they provide Ford with about half of all their sales in this country—the effects of the strike will be much less damaging than may at first seem likely.

Ford's last major stoppage was in 1971, when a nine-week strike cost the company £100m in lost production.

But with pre-tax profits last year of £246m and even better figures this year, the company has a sound financial base on which to rest.

The big impediment is whether the Transport and General Workers' Union, with a large membership at Ford,

decides to spread the dispute to involve members at the docks.

If Ford's imports from Europe, which account for about a third of its sales in this country, were to be blocked, the situation would become much more serious.

Ford said yesterday that it could see no reason why it cannot go on importing Granadas, Capris and Fiestas manufactured abroad, but the management has apparently ruled out the possibility of resuming imports to meet the shortfall of 14,000 vehicles a week from the United Kingdom factories.

The reason given for this reluctance to import more cars is that they are left-hand drive, a difficulty which is by no means insuperable, and the real reason appears to be an unwillingness to cause further friction with the unions.

A prolonged strike will obviously affect companies supplying materials and components, and it would also have a substantial effect on parts of the European operations which rely on parts manufactured in Britain. Engines from Dagenham go to Grazoada and Capris manufactured in Germany for example.

Ford's decision to break the Government's pay limit and the question of sanctions arose, the most likely result would be withdrawal of state-inspired orders for vehicles—about 25,000 a year.

Withdrawal of Government industry and regional aid could threaten the new engine plant at Bridgend in South Wales.

Construction work on the plant was started nearly a year ago, although it is three months behind schedule because of disputes at the site. Government assistance on the project is estimated to be more than £100m of this total £180m cost.

These are warning signs, Mr Henry said, although he felt the trend to cheaper air fares would grow to the advantage of tourism internationally.

But more promotional work was needed to bring more of

Tourists spent £2,750m
in Britain last year

By Our Commercial Editor

If Britain is to maintain its record-breaking invisible earnings from tourism, the Government will have to be prepared to give more aid to the industry, Sir Henry Marking, chairman of the British Tourist Authority (BTA) said yesterday.

The BTA, which gets a £10m a year grant from government, alone needs an extra £2.5m next year, he added.

Sir Henry also wants to see more money going to the English, Welsh and Scottish tourist boards, with more areas than at present able to benefit from special development area aid.

Sir Henry was giving his annual review of the state of the industry which last year—judged by a 15 per cent increase in volume of foreign visitors and a 30 per cent rise in their spending. About 11.5 million visitors spent £2,750m including fares, income to British air and shipping lines.

But with the strengthening of sterling Britain could no longer be described as the "bargain basement" of Europe and international competition for the attention of the tourist was increasing, Sir Henry said.

He gave warning that the going would be harder, although he forecast a slight rise in tourism volume growth this year to 12 million foreign visitors, but spending by visitors would rise by only 10 to 15 per cent, he believed.

Sir Henry made the forecast despite the fact that this year being slightly down. North American traffic was up 9 per cent in the first part of the year, but European traffic was down, leaving an overall decrease of 2 per cent. In June there was a 1 per cent decline in overall spending with the same month last year.

"These are warning signs," Sir Henry said, although he felt the trend to cheaper air fares would grow to the advantage of tourism internationally.

But more promotional work was needed to bring more of



Sir Henry Marking: more promotional work needed.

the trade to Britain and, with foreign tourists becoming more price-conscious, the tourist industry including the hotels and other services had to remain competitive. "We have to give value for money and it is in this aspect that worries me most," Sir Henry added.

Improved tax allowances for hotels, bringing them more into line with the way manufacturing industry was treated, had been welcome but the Government still needed to remove fiscal and other discriminations against tourism service trades as compared with manufacturing industry, Sir Henry said.

Provision of new tourism areas needed to be pursued energetically. A comparatively small further investment in the BTA, whose staff, although smaller than five years ago was under increasing pressure, would yield an enormous return," he said.

Provision of adequate hotel accommodation in Britain was a major consideration in developing the new tourism facilities which would enable Britain to remain competitive, according to the BTA annual report.

Laker order
for airbus
engines goes
to GE

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

General Electric, the big United States jet engine manufacturer, has won the competition to provide the power plants for the fleet of 10 European Airbus aircraft which Laker Airways the British independent airline is buying at a cost of £180m.

Although no contracts have yet been signed, agreement with GE was reached late last week. It understood after a series of discussions at the airline's headquarters at Gatwick airport.

The unsuccessful candidates, in the competition were the other big American engine company, Pratt & Whitney, with its JT80, and Rolls-Royce, with the RB211.

Rolls' proposal failed because of a lack of agreement on who should supply the sum of £25m required for certification of the 211 on the Airbus, for the moment costs—mainly a new nylon on which the engines are hung.

Neither Rolls nor Laker was prepared to put up the money, and the Government has already made it clear that it has no wish to intervene in the Laker airbus deal.

Announcing the purchase of the Airbus last week, Sir Freddie Laker, chairman of the airline, said that he had bought them for commercial rather than political reasons.

This was a reference to the speculation that the purchase of airbuses by a British airline could provide the key to the entry by Britain into the airbus consortium, the leading partners to which are France and West Germany.

Britain would like to enter but France continues to refuse permission because its government is piqued that British Airways should have been allowed to buy 19 American Boeing 747-400s rather than a fleet of Airbus A300-600s, version of the 300-seat A300.

Rolls made it clear last night that it remained interested in having its RB 211 engines fitted to the European airbus family.

The real competition for the Laker order emerges as having been between the two American giants, General Electric and Pratt and Whitney.

Although on figures, were being released yesterday, it is assumed that GE scored on both price and fuel economy. GE's A300-600, with a similar engine in Laker's new DC 10s, would save the airline \$2m (£520,000) a year, over earlier engine versions.

From Laker Airways' point of view it clearly meant that the choice of the RB 211 engine fitted to the European airbus family.

The British Government is waiting this week to see whether it will be admitted to the consortium. Airbus Industrie has made it clear that a decision is made by the end of September, it will begin the wings for the A310.

Tarmac half-time profits dip 37 pc

Interim profits by Tarmac, the road haulage and engineering company, fell 37 per cent, it was announced yesterday.

In the first six months of this year group profits were £525m, compared with £810m last year.

However, Mr. Robin Martin, the chairman, expects second half profits to show some improvement on last year's figure of £142m, although full year profits are unlikely to match the £242m made in the whole of last year.

Mr Martin's more optimistic tone for the second half, resulted in the shares closing unchanged at 148p yesterday after they had dipped sharply on the results.

But the price compares with 217p at which the shares stood last September, just before the revelation of major problems in Nigeria which eventually resulted in losses of £16m.

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In brief

prepared to license the use of its patented inventions by GE, and has invited negotiations to that end.

The suit is similar to previous patent infringement actions which EMI has pending against Philips, Nippon and other companies. More than 500 EMI scanners are now in operation in the United States.

At the same time it also sold its stakes in Toronto Dominion Bank and Commercial Bank of Australia at close to market prices, raising a further £8m.

The consortium bank explained that it had come by the capital of the bank when it was set up in 1964 and when exchange control difficulties had made it difficult for the two Commonwealth banks to inject cash.

A spokesman added that it had for some time been looking for an opportunity to dispose of the shares.

The money will be used to replace existing sources of funds in the balance sheet and on the Bank of England's information for lending, could allow MAIBL almost to double its balance sheet total—if the lending opportunities were available.

EMI patents
suit filed

A legal suit filed yesterday, EMI claims that the General Electric Company of the United States has infringed eight EMI patents concerning computerized tomography scanning systems. This is through the manufacture and sale of such systems by GE's medical systems division.

The British company has asked the Federal District Court in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to stop GE from using EMI's patented inventions, and to award damages for past infringement. But EMI says it is

Girobank gaining listed status

National Girobank has passed another milestone in its transition to a full bank. From the end of this month it will have listed status from the Bank of England.

This means that Girobank will be subject to the Bank's credit control arrangements though under the present statutory controls it already keeps a liquidity ratio of at least 20 per cent. It will have to hold 12 per cent of its eligible liabilities in reserve assets, lodge 3 per cent of these liabilities with the Bank as special deposits, and is in theory governed by the supplementary special deposits scheme (the correct) in practice as its interest-bearing liabilities do not exceed £10m it will not be affected.

Institutional buyers are staying away until the victory over the Ford strike was resolved. The Ford strike was held back by the same strike fears as well as by rising interest rates in the United States.

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French protests at plight
of ship and steel plants

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Sept 25

Steel workers in Lorraine, a region considered among those most threatened by a French Government plan to rationalize and salvage the industry, largely supported a protest strike called today by steel unions.

The Government plan inevitably entails massive job cuts, and support for today's strike was strongest by workers in the plants most threatened. Four hundred marched from the Hagondange headquarters of Saeulor, one of the most vulnerable groups, and blocked the motorways to Saarbrücken, Strasbourg, Nancy, Paris and Luxembourg. The blockade lasted about 20 minutes and caused serious congestion.

At Orléans, near Toulon, shipbuilding and ship repair workers demonstrated to press for a Government plan to salvage their industry, which is threatened with closures. They gathered near a fairground where the UDF, the organisation of non-Gaullist parties, is holding a seminar and shouted hostile slogans at militants and party leaders.

Some spat at the car of M. Jean Lecanuet, the chairman of the UDF, jumped on the hood of his car, and injured his driver. M. Lecanuet himself was unharmed.

One small bright spot in an otherwise gloomy labour situation in the industry is the decision of 3,000 workers of the Ternis ship repair yards at Marseilles to resume work for a trial period of one month after a 12-day strike to protest against excessive lay-offs.

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How the markets moved

The Times index: 221.84 + 3.20
The FT index: 509.4 - 9.2

Rises

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Anglo Am Cial | 50 to 55.5p |
| Cropper J | 4p to 5.40p |
| Dunbarware | 3p to 10.3p |
| Fugary E | 3p to 18.8p |
| Harrison Cross | 25p to 5.50p |
| Jardine M'N | 3p to 25.0p |
| Kioof | 6p to 60.7p |

Falls

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| Barclays Bk | 8p to 34.0p |
| Beecham Grp | 15p to 71.5p |
| Distillers | 3p to 20.3p |
| EMI | 4p to 15.6p |
| Fluents | 25p to 36.0p |
| REC | 10p to 32.0p |
| GKN | 4p to 28.5p |

Families had many falls. Gilt edge securities retreated. Dollar premium 381 per cent (effective rate 46.8 per cent). Sterling gained 40pts to \$1.9755. The effective exchange rate index was at 62.8.

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THE POUND

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Libanon | 10p to 55.7p |
| Lasmo | 10p to 15.6p |
| May & Hassell | 3p to 51.2p |
| Max Shio Canal | 3p to 25.0p |
| Steep Rock | 15p to 24.2p |
| Welkom | 7p to 33.6p |
| Winkelbank | 10p to 70.9p |

Falls

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Hawker Sidd | 5p to 24.8p |
| Home Charm | 2p to 22.0p |
| Imp Chem Ind | 15p to 10.7p |
| Lowell Edey | |

Manufacturing, construction and wholesale and retail trades should help raise GNP to 3 pc

Forecast of faster growth in German economy

From Peter Norman

Brussels, Sept 25
The impression that West Germany's economy is at last entering a period of stronger growth has been reinforced by the publication today of the latest monthly report from the IFO Economic Research Institute in Munich.

Despite currency uncertainty in August, the institute records a continuing improvement in business opinion in manufacturing industry, the construction sector and wholesale and retail trades.

It forecasts an acceleration of real growth in the economy in the second half of this year, predicting a 3.1 per cent rise in real gross national product compared with the second half of 1977.

GNP rose by a real 2.8 per cent in the first six months of this year, overall growth should turn out at around 3 per cent.

One of the more remarkable findings of the IFO study is a growing optimism about export prospects on the part of manufacturing industry. The strength of the Deutsche mark on foreign exchange markets appears to count for less than the expectation of a growing demand for West German goods as economic conditions improve abroad.

The other positive news from industry is of a rising domestic demand for investment goods, particularly in the machine building sector. Although there has been no significant improvement in capacity utilization in industry over the past 12 months, companies seem to be willing to commit funds in modernizing their plant.

In the building industry, where production is expected to grow at a faster rate than the economy as a whole this year, around 30 per cent of companies are complaining of labour shortages

hindering the completion of contracts. IFO reports that both the wholesale and retail sectors are viewing the future with greater optimism.

The monthly reports from IFO are taken seriously by policymakers in Bonn and Frankfurt, as the institute's survey of business opinion is one of the more reliable early indicators of economic developments.

The latest survey tends to confirm the optimistic assessment of the economy published by the Federal Bank a week ago.

Bonn cancels £1,100m of Third World debt

Bonn, Sept 25—The West German Government within the next four weeks or so plans to work out details of a

scheme to write off about DM4,300m (£1,100m) of debt owed by the poorest developing countries, Herr Rahn, Minister of Economic Cooperation, said today.

The Government planned to forgo collecting principal and interest due from next January 1 on official development credits granted to the group of 30 least developed countries.

The debt write-offs, which would cost about DM30m a year until 2023, would be worked out on a country-by-country basis under guidelines which the Cabinet would decide over the next few weeks, Herr Rahn said.

The working out of individual settlements would take up to a year, but all agreements would be made retroactive to January 1.

Bangladesh, Sudan, Tanzania and Afghanistan will be the major countries to profit from the scheme.—Reuter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parity grid for stable trade

From Mr Peter Landmore

Sir, So, in the European Monetary Fund plan, "Britain will find itself presented with an option which it can take or leave but not alter" (today's leader, September 18). Those of us who have witnessed our representatives negotiating with the European counterparts will experience an unpleasant sense of déjà-vu. Once again the characteristic official attitude—guarded, stand-offish and insular—to new schemes emanating from Europe will result in a system of intervention to whose design we shall have contributed minimally. We should not be surprised if it failed to serve our interests.

But, in fact, these interests are far from incompatible with the proposed parity grid system. For instance, unlike a currency basket, a parity grid offers a

stable exchange rate with each member country and therefore favours the development of stable trade relations. How many export opportunities in Europe have gone begging due to currency uncertainties? It also removes the destabilizing influence of constant competing devaluations between the European trading partners.

The tendency under a fixed-rate system for one country's surplus to force deflation on the other countries will be reduced by the pooling of reserves. The EMF will also give participating countries a means to present non-existent—of pressing their case on the surplus country. A trigger clause could even be written into the agreement requiring a surplus country to revalue; this would take care of the danger that a rising mark could make all EEC exports and home markets un-

competitive with Japan and United States or the devalued.

There are many other elements which could be discussed on the same lines. The fact is that we should assume that retaining independence—and hence preventing the birth of a pan-European monetary system—serves our interests. It is too easy for our present defeatist mood, to sink in our current woe for the Thundere encourage it.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LANDMORE,
European Studies, British Department of History, Philosophy and European Studies,
The Polytechnic of North London, Haringey Road, London NW5 2LQ.

Lucas to press offer for Ducellier despite opposition from French

By Clifford Webb

Peugeot-Citroën's bid for Chrysler Europe has made Lucas even more determined to press ahead with its £13.3m offer to gain control of the French auto-electric company, Ducellier, despite French Government opposition for the past seven months.

Speaking in Birmingham yesterday, Mr Walter Waller, Lucas group marketing director, said: "If anyone had said Chrysler Europe would be selling out five years ago Lucas should have laughed at them. But today the face of the European motor industry is changing rapidly."

"Today victory is going to the big profitable battalions operating on a multinational basis, and we have a duty to our employees to push Lucas' potential to the limit."

He said Mr Bernard Scott, Lucas chairman, had been involved in talks with French ministers for months, and was continuing to talk despite the chauvinistic attitude of the French.

Lucas was not trying to "splinter" SEV, the new company formed with French government backing by the merging of Cibic Marchal and Paris-Rhône and to which it would like to add Ducellier.

But Lucas had been in France since 1960, and had a considerable stake in the French economy. It was only right that it should continue to play a full part there.

It already owned 49 per cent of Ducellier, and had made an offer to buy the remaining 51 per cent from the Bendis Corporation of America. But the French seemed to be "terrified" of the Americans and wanted French control again.

He went on: "It has to be said that the French are the least European member of the EEC."

Mr Waller was speaking at a press conference called to reveal details of Lucas' huge commitment to next month's Motor Show at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

It is estimated that Lucas is investing more than £500,000 to



Mr Bernard Scott, Lucas chairman: months of talks with French ministers.

provide a permanent press centre, a night cabaret at a Birmingham restaurant, a fireworks display, water-skiing on the NEC lake, Red Devils parachute displays, a 6,000-bloom floral welcome, and a double-decked Lucas stand backed by a spectacular laser beam communications set.

Renold strike likely to affect motor industry

By Our Midlands Correspondent

Another challenge to the Government's Phase Four pay policy may affect wide sections of the motor industry. A week-old strike by 800 workers at Renold's Coventry plant has stopped production of timing chains for car engines used by most British companies.

A spokesman at Renold's Manchester headquarters said: "Although we have another factory producing timing chains it cannot possibly fill the gap left by Coventry."

It will also be extremely difficult for the car firms to find alternative supplies in the near substantial quantities needed to maintain engine production.

Both sides appear to be digging in for a long stoppage. The Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers is being pressed by its local district committee to declare the strike official.

The request will get a sympathetic hearing from union leaders because the men's claim has exhausted the established

disputes procedure and they walked out only after giving statutory notice of strike action. The company has told the union and the Coventry Engineering Employers' Association that it cannot meet the demand for a substantial rise—thought to be in excess of 10 per cent—without breaching the Government's 5 per cent limit.

Another problem facing Renold, and one likely to cause increasing friction throughout the engineering industry in the next few months, is the implementation of the national engineering agreement concluded seven months ago. It gave guaranteed earnings overworkings which were to become operative in Phase Four.

At Renold this called for an extra 1½ per cent when the current pay deal ran out last month. The union insists that this should be additional to the 5 per cent, but the Government has ruled that it must be inclusive.

Business Diary, page 21

Thomas Cook expanding outlets to 400 from 160

By Derek Harris

Thomas Cook, Britain's largest travel agency who last week set the travel industry on the road to an inducement war, is planning to intensify the battle for customers on a different front.

It aims to increase its outlets and possibly include franchising operations for the first time.

Cook's at present has 160 outlets and many of the 4,000 other travel agents in the country also sell Cook's holiday packages.

The company, now owned by

the Midland Bank, is looking for new sites to bring its outlets total to 400, which would give it the coverage it wants throughout the country.

The possibility of some of the extra outlets being franchised operations is being studied.

With smaller, independent travel agents likely to come under increasing pressure as the incentives battle intensifies, Cook's could negotiate franchises with the sort of quality operators it wants to recruit.

Expansion on this scale would take Cook's well ahead

of the second largest agency chain, Pickfords Travel, which now almost matches Cook's in outlet numbers.

However independent tour operators are moving into direct selling to the public, cutting out agents altogether, and about half the 60 members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO) already operate on a direct sale basis. Some of those who still largely use travel agents are now considering increasing the proportion of their direct sales business.

"With costs as they are, direct selling is now much more attractive," Mr Peter Chadda, of the Luton-based Silair Holidays, said. Only 10 per cent of his business is now with direct selling.

Tour operators are looking hard at cost because of increasing speculation that some Mediterranean holiday countries are likely to increase hotel prices. It is possible prices to the operators of Spanish tours could rise as much as 50 per cent and Greek rates are also likely to go up.

House price increases continuing

More houses are on the market than for three years, but even though mortgage difficulties are an additional pressure, prices are still steadily climbing.

This is the conclusion of the latest quarterly survey of the market by the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers (ISVA) covering the three months to the end of August and based on returns from agent members of ISVA.

Increase in the housing stock is the first registered since the ISVA survey was started at the beginning of 1975. There had been a steady decline until the quarter to August, when the housing stock rose by 12.4 per cent.

Slowing of the pace of building in the housing market has slowed the house price market but the climb in house prices still seems "exorable", ISVA says.

Most agents predicted continuing increases in prices—some cases by as much as 25 per cent—in the next 12 months. In the quarter surveyed the cheapest houses had risen 3.9 per cent in the three months while in the range of £12,500 to £20,000 prices had risen 5.4 per cent.

Among houses in the next most expensive sector, up to £35,000, there were increases of 3.8 per cent, and more expensive houses, than that rose 4.5 per cent.

Across the domestic property spectrum as a whole prices rose 4.5 per cent in the quarter.

Mr Michael Raine, chairman of the Estate Agency Committee of the ISVA, commented: "Building societies are lending for improvements and extensions on a large scale, depriving the open market."

"Nevertheless, this does not appear to have had the anticipated curbing effect on prices, which have quietly soared during the past 12 months."

Output of steel falls in August

Brussels, Sept 25—Crude steel production in the 29 member countries of the International Iron and Steel Institute fell to a provisional 26.49 million tonnes in August from a revised 37.71 million in July. Production was 34.82 million tonnes in August last year.

The 4.8 per cent overall rise from August, 1977, reflects continuing expansion in the United States where production gained 10.9 per cent to 10.46 million tonnes.

EEC production in August showed a 0.1 per cent drop to 9.33 million tonnes, reflecting a 27.2 per cent fall in output in the United Kingdom, and Italy, down 11.1 per cent, compared with increases in other EEC countries.—Reuter.

TV deliveries down in July

Colour television deliveries were down in July compared with the same month last year and also compared with deliveries in June, but deliveries over the first seven months of this year were still up on those of last year—903,000 as against 835,000.

The British Radio Equipment Manufacturers Association (Brema), reporting this yesterday, said that while all July deliveries, particularly of audio products, had been boosted by increased import volumes, consumer demand generally had remained rather flat.

An apology from Inland Revenue

From Mr Nicholas J. Flower

Sir, My complaint, August 2, that the Northern Ireland Tax Inspectorate had been no appeal to the General Commissioners has, happily, led to an apologetic withdrawal from the Inland Revenue at Somerset House. It has now been made clear that, as Mr Lis thought (August 14), people like me, living and/or working in Great Britain, can appeal to the General Commissioners about earned income taxation even if our tax affairs are handled in Northern Ireland. This is usually an easier and more convenient route and, what is more, threatened recourse to it by an average taxpayer is more likely to impress the inspector than if we had to appeal to the Belfast County Court or the Belfast Special Commissioners.

Yours faithfully,
N. J. FLOWER,
Willows,
Taplow Common Road,
Buckingham, SL1 8LP,
September 21.

Making a point to CABIN

From the Managing Director of the Economist Intelligence Unit Limited

Sir, The report which The Economist Intelligence Unit prepared earlier this year, "Public Ownership in the Construction Industries", has been referred to in your correspondence columns, most recently by Mr Armit of CABIN (September 13) and Mr Wood of UCATT (September 20). Without wishing to enter the debate I would like to make two points clear.

First, my report was prepared independently of CABIN and its conclusions are those of the EIU and of no one else. Second, the statistics which are used in the report on safety, as indeed on other topics, are taken from official sources and identified as such in the report.

MICHAEL J. WEST,
Managing Director,
The Economist Intelligence Unit Ltd,
Spencer House,
27 St James's Place,
London, SW1A 1NT,
September 21.

Why we should reduce our coal surpluses

From Mr G. K. Wilson

Sir, Mr Donald Davies, Chairman, Opencast Executive (Business news, September 12) assures us that the policy of increasing opencast is profitable; he also says that public opinion has to be satisfied as to the need.

He must surely know, as anyone in the energy industry knows, that the NCB is in an embarrassing position due to over production. The lack of need is clearly demonstrated when the Central Electricity Generating Board alone is holding excess stocks over and above their requirements to the value of £171,000,000 in order to alleviate the NCB's problem.

It is important to note that this 7 million tons of coal is only being stockpiled; it is not to be paid for unless used. However, it is profitable to produce coal for stockpiling so no one wants to buy it.

It would also be interesting to know how or where the figure of £171.7m features in the accounts of the NCB. Surely it

ought to be deducted from the alleged £20.4m profit made last year. Perhaps the Government, the taxpayer, subsidised the NCB to this value so that a book profit could be shown.

In view of the fact that we are now in a period of energy surplus we should obviously be reducing, rather than increasing, opencast mining. Unlike deep mining the opencast mine is quickly established; it would therefore, be more sensible to conserve such coal to be used when, and if a national emergency arises. We should certainly not be tearing up vast tracts of land, much of it good productive farmland, in order to create ever further massive surpluses at mounting cost to the taxpayer.

Yours faithfully,
G. K. WILSON,
(Chairman, Derwent Valley Protection Society),
18 Glamis Crescent,
Rowlands Gill,
Tyne and Wear,
NE39 1AT,
September 19.

Liability an consumers

From Mr Alastair MacGeorge

Sir, Mr J. W. Lewis of Lewis Co (Fabrics) Limited (Business News, September 15) charts one with getting my "le facts wrong" in my letter, September 8. As Mr Le has failed to distinguish liability in contract, which usually arises and not dependent on fault, from liability negligence.

I do, of course, know negligence is a separate tort in its own right, and am acquainted with it. It is the snail in the ginger beer bottle, immortalized by Donoghue v Stevenson in the House of Lords in 1932.

Our point, authoritatively, is made by Professor Diano in his letter in your column on September 11, is that it is not good enough to require people who are not buyers to have to prove negligence before they can be compensated for injury or loss from a defective product. We say it is not an aspect of strict liability, current confined almost exclusively to the law of contract, ought to be extended to apply to all consumers.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR MACGEORGE,
Assistant Director,
Consumers' Association,
11 Buckingham Street,
London, WC2N 6DS,
September 19.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Hedging against the Ford claim

had simply looked at sterling's closing against the dollar last night—marginally on the day—one would never have guessed that the Ford situation had slipped into the melting pot. Yet again, the story had less to do with sterling and much more to do with fresh news in the American currency. Gold edged \$5 to just under \$220 and the Swiss continued under strong upward pressure.

lier in the day, however, sterling had something of a knock and it was from hat gilts and equities took their lead. often in this type of situation stocks have been caught in two minds. rity market opinion probably considers Ford could afford to settle above the cent limit, and certainly would do left own devices. The fear of course, ly or wrongly, is the possible knock-on and the fact that on this occasion the rumour appears to have nailed its rs so firmly to the mast.

recasting must tentative

case for viewing Tarmac as a recovery ion after the Nigerian débâcle is now ously weakened by a 37 per cent fall in profits to £6.25m. At the trading level this is a fall of almost £4m, and all divisions except construction and ary and building products in France and any have done well, it suggests a set- of perhaps £5m to £6m by those tem areas.

mac blames competitive and shrinking ets and says it is energetically tackling problems of low margins. In construc- this implies that previously negotiated acts from the expansionist phase are ing problems. Meanwhile, German losses being stemmed but France seems to turned very sour.

hope is that these figures contain the e of the problems. Tarmac says second- profits, should exceed last year's in indicating a £21m to £22m profit for year compared with £24.2m last time. ver, next year wider construction ins could be achieved on a more ous programme while the sound- ed Kingdom parts of the business ld continue to forge ahead. The diffi- , however, is first the record, which is both in earnings terms when compared other materials and contracting groups in terms of the number of unexpected items which have emerged from over- ventures and, second, Tarmac's balance r which was \$7.5 per cent geared after Nigerian débâcle which must hamper- batever the theoretical prospects are nac has become an analyst's nightmare. casts must increasingly be tentative, uncertain atmosphere has been com- ed recently by the sudden news that 3 office staff is being cut by 50 per cent heavy redundancy costs. It appears es through the group's management a which it has not yet recovered.

leawhile, a yield of just under 10 per t with the shares at 148p provides scant port against his background while even recovery enthusiasts might feel nervous ut a prospective p/e ratio of almost ht.

unjustified rowth rating

sons is at a crossroads. The two-fifths rovement in pre-tax profits to almost 2m in the first half fell a long way short expectations, knocking 25p off the shares 360p. And the harsh fact is that if the omp can do no better than this in what supposed to be a recovery year after years of pedestrian progress it raises serious ubs about its longer-term ability to com- te effectively in the agrochemicals and armaceuticals worlds.

As it is Fisons' problems are not altogether its own making and it is difficult to see at it can do rectify things. Recovery in rtilizers, where trading profits moved on £201,000 last year to £13.1m, was less g at the end of last year in front of price

Business Diary: Good news bears • Mr 3½ Per Cent

get all kinds of mail in this little teddy would enjoy or the excitement he would create. Now a New York firm is making and selling the teddies and sales have exceeded 25,000. They appear in the Sears and Spiegel Christmas catalogues and there are proposals to translate the four other languages into comfort into words. Teddy Kennedy, Stangle, alleges has one. Whatever else all this achieves I do hope it has lessened any insecurity Stangle may have had. The picture stop the circular shows him clutching not one but two teddy bears. What, else?—three little bears.

Leslie Tolley, who takes over the chairmanship of the British Institute of Management tomorrow week, faces a management challenge much nearer home. The Regold power transmission products company, of which Tolley is chairman, has been chosen by the fickle fates to be the ground for the first confrontation between the engineering unions and the employers over Phase Four pay policy.

The company's Coventry plant is the first proving ground for a national agreement made between the Engineering Employers Federation and the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers last February, which gave guaranteed earnings after the start of Phase Four.

Hollywood: still a money spinner

Los Angeles. "I'm fascinated by the movies simply because it is an enormous machine for making money and, in a way, how badly they run it, it still makes money. It's the perfect industry to put your nephew in and your idiot cousin, because they'll be geniuses."

Mario Puzo, who himself made millions out of Hollywood with his book *The Godfather*, obviously knows what he is talking about. The past year has been one of turmoil, scandal and uncertainty in the film industry, yet profits are up and so is production.

By the end of the year, if the trend continues, domestic box office gross receipts for 1978 will reach \$2,800m—16 per cent more than last year.

The film industry is just ending its most prosperous summer ever, with the trade paper *The Hollywood Reporter* noting that in June, July and August box office receipts alone were \$600m-\$100m more than last year's figures.

Yet if the finances of the companies are looking healthy there have been, behind the scenes, a number of dramas which have shaken the industry. Earlier this month Columbia Pictures was the most speculated about company on Wall

But in the seventies film studios are either a branch of much larger diversified conglomerates, or they are mini-conglomerates themselves, making a lot of their money outside the film business.

Street. The word from some sure financial advisers was "sell", yet the company had just announced record fourth-quarter profits of \$16m, or \$1.69 a share, compared with \$6.7m or 75 cents a share last year. Columbia's net income climbed to \$68.8m, or \$7.40 a share, compared with \$34.6m, or \$4.04 a share.

To understand what has been happening at Columbia, whose recent financial successes included *The Deep* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, one must go back to the early 1970s when what became known

as "the Begelman affair" surfaced. David Begelman, a former theatrical agent, head of Columbia's film and television departments, was ordered to take leave of absence after the discovery of financial irregularities amounting to \$44,000.

He visited a psychiatrist, pleaded guilty to a minor charge in court and resigned from his post, but not before a rift had developed in the company.

On one side was Alan J. Hirschfeld, Columbia's president and chief executive officer, who wanted Mr Begelman out; and on the other was the powerful board, who favoured keeping him. The board pointed to the fact that only a few years before, Columbia had been in danger of becoming a parking lot but the position had been reversed dramatically by Mr Begelman's production prowess.

Soon after Mr Begelman left the board dismissed Mr Hirschfeld, who has since threatened to lead a proxy fight for reinstatement. Meanwhile, Daniel Melnick, a former Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer executive, was named to fill the Begelman post and hardly had that announcement been digested when Sy Weintraub, once the producer of the *Tarzan* television series, was brought in as chairman of Columbia, making him in effect Mr Melnick's chief.

Mr Weintraub is a long-standing friend of Mr Begelman and had lost him \$25,000 to pay back some of his debts. What disgruntled stockholders wanted to know was whether Mr Weintraub was simply keeping Mr Begelman's seat warm until the heat died down, or whether he was part of a new set-up.

Creative film makers in Hollywood are wondering if Columbia's writers and directors will bolt in this climate of uncertainty. More ominous, the Begelman case has led Los Angeles District Attorney, Mr John Van De Kamp, to appoint a special task force to investigate grant and corruption in the film industry.

Through a series of traumas Columbia has continued to put on a happy face last month, at a cost of more than \$250,000 it distributed an expensive, multi-coloured, flashily illustrated 32-page collage of the company's 39 pictures, present in, or due to be finished, production, to 20,000 producers and directors and press and opinion makers.

The frontpiece reads: "In the 32 years of Columbia Pictures, we have made the world sing, and dance and laugh. We have frightened and amazed and moved to tears millions of people in every country—and this is just the beginning."

All this disorder would not have happened in the old days when the film companies were

What hope for the British film industry?

The American film industry may be going through a commercial (if not an artistic) renaissance; in Britain any improvement in fortunes—and the talk among film men is more bullish this year—is at best only a temporary respite from crisis.

The fundamental problem in this country is that it is not one industry but two: the first, and much the stronger, is essentially a subcontractor for the dominant American industry; the second, our indigenous industry is a weakling whose strength is ebbing away with each year that passes.

In a recent report the Association of Independent Producers, which represents some 400 makers, put the problem succinctly: "During the sixties, when the Americans supplied up to 90 per cent of the finance required for feature film production, these two industries were inexorably linked."

So, according to our home market and our writers who wrote for it that the dollar financed many quintessentially British films, such as *Oliver*, *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Tom Jones*, *Alfie*, *A Hard Day's Night*, *Get Out* and *If...*

But in the past decade, the association says, the domestic market has shrunk and with

it the basis for financing production has dried up.

Established writers, directors and producers have left to work in America and the subcontracted industry in the United Kingdom has almost totally been reduced to that of a "servicing" industry. The Americans are no longer interested in making films about Britain, as in the sixties, but are using Britain as a production facility.

Meanwhile, the two main British film companies, EMI and Rank, are because of the enormous American market, making films which are inevitably geared largely to United States tastes. This leaves the independent British film producer with a very limited market, as the guardians of the British tradition in film—reluctantly watching the indigenous film

particular factory could afford. He saw little difference whether the dispute was made official or not.

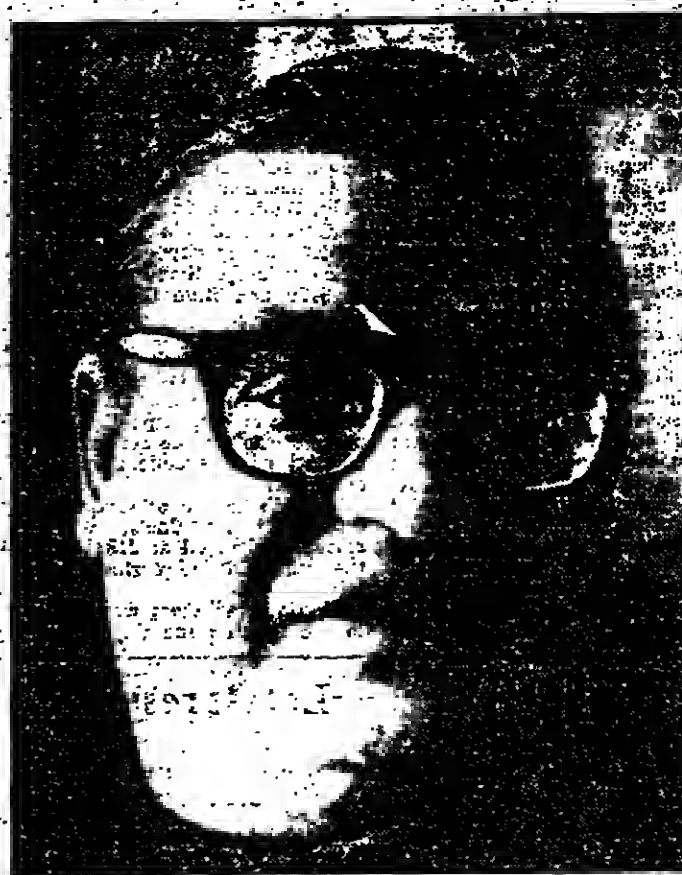
As I predicted last month Alec Smith is to follow Jack MacGowan as general secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers.

When nominations for the post closed at the weekend, Smith was the only name on the list and he had the backing of 79 branches. A former presser in ladies' tailoring, Smith will take over the leadership next summer, 20 years after becoming a full-time officer.

His assumption of power coincides with a push by the union for higher wages, better conditions and a radical shift in employers' manufacturing and retailing strategy.

The NUTGW yesterday published its proposals for the survival of the British clothing industry in a highly competitive international market. The union concedes that modernization and re-equipment are essential to fight imports at the risk of even fewer jobs in an industry where the labour force has been almost halved since 1951.

Smith is 43 and lives in Ilford, Essex. He is a member of the Labour Party and belongs to the TUC Textile Committee, the Little Noddy for the industry, the industry's training board and several wages councils.



Mario Puzo, author of the book *The Godfather*: "However badly they run the industry, it still makes money."

turning out scores of "formula" films a year and were run by dictatorial moguls, as their personal fiefdoms. Jack Warner, who just died, was king at Warner Brothers; Harry Cohn was a "tyrant" at Columbia; and Darryl Zanuck told his board what to do at 20th Century Fox.

But in the seventies film studios are either a branch of much larger, diversified conglomerates, or they have developed into mini-conglomerates themselves, making a lot of their money outside the picture business. This has led to a sometimes uneasy relationship between corporate headquarters in New York and the film-makers a continent away in the land of California.

Earlier, this year, United Artists, the film financing and distributing arm of the giant, \$3,000 Transamerica Corporation, diversified and sold its 39 pictures, present in, or due to be finished, production, to 20,000 producers and directors and press and opinion makers.

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The will to sustain the industry has certainly been there, but somehow the ingenious methods devised to do this have not been altogether successful

industry atrophying almost to the point of extinction.

Like many another business in crisis the British film industry has been looking to the Government for help. Much of its faith is pinned at present on Sir Harold Wilson's Interim Action Committee on the Film Industry, and the former Prime Minister's first contribution has been a report examining the constitution and operating role of a new British Film Authority which would have the power to principal advice in film and the main repository and allocator of public money.

It would take over the powers and authority of the Cinematograph Films Council, which requires cinemas to show a certain proportion of British films each year. In recent years the quota system has become not so much a protection as an irritant.

With Britain's accession to the EEC the protected access of British producers to the cinema screen was seriously diluted, since EEC films became eligible for inclusion in the British quota. One extremely visible result is that the Japanese cinema is now flooded with soft-core pornography; films, many originating in France and Germany.

The present crop of continental pot-boilers (and the similar British productions which have followed in their train) can surely not be what the devisers of the quota system had in mind when they set out to guarantee access to British cinemas. The quota returns for 1977 tell their own story: of 126 quota films of more than 72 minutes playing time, only 42 were British, while 84 came from the EEC.

Another key measure devised by bureaucracy to help the film industry was the Film Levy, commonly known as Eady

Moore, after Treasury minister Sir Walter Eady, who helped to devise it. Again, the sentiments behind the British Film Fund Agency were wholly commendable. It was to be a levy on cinema admissions for the benefit of British film production, the proceeds of the levy being distributed to British film-makers in direct proportion to the earnings of their films in this country.

Since the yield of the levy has usually been about £5m a year, this "subsidy" was not to be sniffed at. But the Eady money system is badly flawed. There is no provision that the money should be ploughed back into films—which means theory, and sometimes in practice, that Eady money can be used to pay for the producer's next holiday in the Bahamas.

Worse than this, the regulations governing Eady money are so drawn up that beneficiaries can be, and often are, foreign companies operating through a British shell.

But even where the recipient is wholly British, the Eady system seems to demonstrate clearly that the British film industry has a long way to go to achieve success, rather than encourage merit.

What the operations of the quota and Eady money systems seem to demonstrate clearly is that the British film industry has always had most to contribute.

What the proposed British Film Authority must do if it is to have any chance of success is to correct this imbalance. The British film industry may never be able to rival the American one as a mass producer of middle-of-the-road entertainment. What it may be able to do is to raise standards a little. But to do that, it must first survive.

News for Trade Unionists, the Conservative trade unionists' paper, quotes Jim Prior, the Shadow employment minister and the party's "expert" on the unions, as saying: "I have been to the Post Office Union's headquarters at Balham. Now I don't know whether it's a case of one union or one south London suburb looking very much the other, or a Tory front-batcher, but the Union of Post Office Workers, under the impression that their offices are in Clapham."

Ross Davies

Disney: still a money spinner

the shares have continued to climb.

Disney remains one of the top growth stocks because profits have grown at an annual rate of 22.6 per cent and the company earned \$82m on sales of \$629.8m. But today two-thirds of the profits come from the company's amusement parks in California and Florida and its working on a ski resort in California—so far delayed by environmental opposition—and a "theme park" in Japan.

Like Disney, 20th Century Fox has also moved into leisure parks as well as records, and MCA-Universal, the owner and lord of the world's largest studio, though films and television work are by far its highest products, runs money spinning studio tours and its record and music publishing arms continue to show healthy profits.

Just 11, with a production and advertising budget of more than \$25m, had a slow start this summer, giving Lew R. Wasserman and Sidney J. Sheinberg, chairman of the board and chief operating officer of Universal respectively, a nervous few weeks. But to their relief, the promoter worked and the film has so far grossed \$60m without yet opening in Britain and the rest of the world.

The people at Paramount Studios, the film arm of Gulf and Western Industries (property manufacturing and financial services) are happy with their film operations thanks to the success of *Star Wars* (N54m) and *Grease* (nearly \$28m in domestic returns alone).

Despite, therefore, the unstable start to the year most executives in Hollywood are optimistic about their business—and scoff at Mario Puzo's comment about "incompetence" being part of the industry.

Frank Price, in charge of film production at Columbia, believes that the whole Begelman affair and its aftermath "has been blown up out of proportion. He points to the investigation of the government's General Services Administration now under way.

"Millions are missing here, but that department isn't as glamorous as Hollywood, despite the fact that what we're talking about here is only a few thousands."

Mr Medavoy, part of the exodus from United Artists, who now heads the West Coast production office of Orion says: "I think the movie business is going through a renaissance. You've only to look at the figures to know that it's going to be the highest year in the history of the business."

It's not true that there are idiots in this business—it's just that some people are brighter than others—and that happens in every industry.

Mario Puzo, author of the book *The Godfather*: "However badly they run the industry, it still makes money."

Disney Studios, long the most reliable of film money-makers, has not been making much money in films since the death of its chief. This seems to be because the product has not been up to standard, though

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industry atrophying almost to the point of extinction.

Like many another business in crisis the British film industry has been looking to the Government for help. Much of its faith is pinned at present on Sir Harold Wilson's Interim Action Committee on the Film Industry, and the former Prime Minister's first contribution has been a report examining the constitution and operating role of a new British Film Authority which would have the power to principal advice in film and the main repository and allocator of public money.

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Ross Davies

The Times
SPECIAL REPORTS
put situations and subjects of today into
PEOPLE'S VIEW

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Shares and gilts fall as buyers hold back

There was no way for shares and gilts to go yesterday, save down. As on Friday, dealers saw an opportunity to get some stock on their books and once again their tactics succeeded. But both dealers and brokers agreed the amount of selling was small. It was more a case of buyers, both institutional and private, holding their fire, than of unloading.

Several reasons were advanced for this mood of caution and profit-taking among high-fliers. Gilts edged especially were said to be suffering from breaking estimates of 10 per cent inflation next year and rising United States interest rates. For shares generally, OECD pessimism about the economy's growth was also singled out for blame.

Fidelity Radio, just about the only home grown answer to foreign competition and run by Mr. Jack Dickman, held their own at 90p yesterday. For the week to next March the group will probably realise profits from £1.3m to around £1.7m, helped by the present consensus.

But the record profit of £2.2m was made in 1974.

None of this really mattered in comparison with the collision course with Ford that the Government seems to have charted. City sentiment, or much of it, is in the direction of letting Ford do a commercial deal with its motor, which will afford to do. However, it has no means of knowing

how far the Government will go in stopping Ford setting its strike.

Until the Government's intentions become clearer, there is nothing for either equities or gilts to do except drift, possibly for several days. It was of some comfort to gilts that renewed weakness in the dollar took the pressure off sterling. The pound was soft at first, but recovered later. Even so, falls of up to 1 were seen throughout the list.

The FT index closed at its worst of the day. It started with only a modest 2.9-point drop at 10 am, but was eight points down one hour later. At the close the index was 9.2 points off at 59.4.

However, the setback was only one of 17 per cent and the number of bargains marked was only 4,988. If there is to be a change of direction, it has

yet to come. Meanwhile, fund managers are quick to buy useful lines that come on offer.

Industrial leaders duly went down. ICI slipped 4p to 33p and Becton and Dickinson 15p to 71.5p. Rank fell 6p to 26.6p and GEC retreated 10p to 32p.

GKN saw 4p clipped from its price to 28.5p. Glaxo sank 11p to 51.7p and Blue Circle shed 10p to 28.4p.

But not all the 30 stocks in the main FT index retreated.

Allied Breweries (whose bid for J. Lyons has gone through) held firm at 81p, helped by support from who saw the availability of stock as an excellent buying opportunity.

This distinction of sorts was also held by Boots, which closed unchanged at 21.3p. But the other 28 index stocks all fell.

Motor distributors were well to the fore on the way down.

Among Ford dealers, Harold Perry dropped 5p to 11.5p and T. C. Harrison slipped 8p to 11.5p. The rest spread to 8p dealers, as shown by the 41p fall to 12.7p in Hensley and the 3p drop to 8.5p in Lex.

Among component makers, Lucas shed a mere 2p to 32p, while Smiths Industries held its own at 21.7p. Associated Engineering was only 1p down at 11.5p, while Armstrong Equipment gave up 3p to 59p.

In engineering, Tube Investments' share loss of 8p to 39.4p was representative. Electrical and electronics stocks, hitherto strong as a group, gave up several pence. Racal went down 10p to 12.2p and Farnell Electronics 15p to 39.5p.

Bid stocks shared in the gloom. Down went Bambergers, the subject of an "approach" by 9p to 76p, while John Haggas

which may lose Dawson as a suitor lost 5p to 14.2p.

Figures due later this week did not help Vickers, down 5p to 19.7p, or Ebec, 2p off at 14.7p. Yesterday's profits were had Tarmac well down at first, but limits on Nigerian provisions left them unchanged on the day at 14.8p.

Ransome, Hoffman Pollard had to concede 1p to 63.1p yesterday. The ball bearing group has had a hard time recently and it does not help to have motor industry connections. The group's earnings have, however, done something to soften Japanese competition and the fall in profits this year from £5.4m last year need not be too severe. RHP could have made around £3.7m this year.

A feeble recovery at half-time had Fisons 25p down at 30p and interim figures not so high as expected had C. D. Brammall 3p off at 38p. Small profits growth left Advest 3p off at 30.3p. The Coral Holdings stake in Atlantic City, which either Harwardke added 1p to 11.7p in the shares.

Possible takeover problems clipped 12p to 90p at BP and 7p to 56.6p at Shell.

Equity, turnover on September 22 was £105.56m (17,280 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were 5,511, GEC, Barclay Midland Bank, ICI, BP, Plessey as well as T. C. Harrison, Harold Perry, C. T. Bowring and Waca Grry.

France and abroad. Its exploitation of Britain and the Commonwealth is to be handled by Imperial Chemical Industries. AP—Dow Jones.

Hillards opening keeps up pace

Though the high street price war is not yet in sight, the first 21 weeks of the current year had shown a satisfactory increase over the corresponding period, Mr. G. N. Hunter, chairman of Hillards, says in his annual statement.

Hillards, which is chiefly concerned with the sale of food and other commodities through supermarkets and stores, has recently obtained planning permission to build a large store at Selby.

A. Martin first-half disappoints

By Ray Maughan

After a 50 per cent pre-tax improvement in 1977, Albert Martin's profit fell of more than a fifth to £324,000 in the six months ended June 30 compared with a 30 per cent increase in the corresponding period. This is particularly since the level of second-half profits and hence dividend cover revival is unlikely to be sufficient to allow the Marks & Spencer clothing supplier to make full use of current dividend.

Marks & Spencer, probably accounts for about 45 per cent of turnover—up by almost 20 per cent overall in the first half to £9.58m—and it is clear that trading here was particularly difficult in the first quarter of the year. Added to which was the effect of currency problems and weak demand in the French knitwear market—perhaps about 5 per cent of sales—where customers insisted on being invoiced in France.

Martin's sustained foreign exchange losses of £53,000 pre-tax on forward contracts which includes forward provisions for the second half. Happily, the French market has now picked up and buyers are now willing to take a 10 per cent discount.

The optimism of Mr. C. R. Martin, chairman, stems partly from a 15 per cent rise in French volume orders for the 1979 season.

His confidence is reinforced by the current upturn in Marks & Spencer's ordering patterns and the continued buoyancy of the British Home Stores, Mothercare and Pippa Dee supplier, Martin's Empress International.

The dividend last year was covered five and a quarter times and the 1978 interim is lifted from 2.23p to 2.5p gross per share. The shares fell 8p yesterday to 92p.

Part-time Vacancies

Part-time Secretary/Research Assistant

Required by the department of Biological Sciences, The University of London, for a research project in the area of the development of the nervous system. The successful candidate will be required to assist in the collection and processing of material, and to carry out some of the laboratory work. The post is for 10 hours per week, 4 days a week, and is for a period of 12 months. The salary is £3,000 per annum. Applications should be sent to the Director of the department, 1, Gower Street, London, W.C.1E 6BT.

Mysterious Men/Sabb

Part-time Secretary/Research Assistant

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Coral takes in slice of US casino network

By Rosemary Unsworth

Coral Leisure group has joined the American scramble into gambling with the acquisition of a 20 per cent stake in Hardwicke companies for \$3.8m (about £1.9m).

The move will enable Coral to manage jointly, with Hardwicke, the former Riz Carlton Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Hardwicke recently acquired a 50 per cent stake in the hotel, which will become one of eight casinos in the Resort International group, which has already opened one casino.

Hardwicke, which has an annual turnover of \$19m, owns a hotel, taxi and duty free stores, restaurants in New York and Washington DC, safari parks and a chain of 39 restaurants in the United States, Australia and Japan.

The group's net earnings were \$1m in the year.

Mr. Nicholas Coral, chairman of Coral, will join the Hardwicke board. He said the two groups' arrangements "would extend to any other project in Atlantic City in which either company is involved, and may encompass other casino hotel operations elsewhere in the United States."

Corps' finance director, Mr. David Spencer, said it had no formal approved plans to acquire any more US casinos.

Moreover, a Swiss-based hotel and restaurant group which runs the London Swiss Club has also acquired \$500,000 worth of Hardwicke stock to be used to finance the Riz Carlton project.

Engineering does we for Adwest as estate project benefits loom

By Ray Maughan

Continuing strength from Adwest Group's mainstream engineering activities stands to be overshadowed by the potential contribution from residential estate development.

A pre-tax profit improvement of over 18 per cent to £6.7m after a near 17 per cent sales rise to £49.5m in the year ended June 30, however, owes nearly everything to the automotive and engineering subsidiaries.

While the electrical division was mostly disappointing, the Rescon International division has already opened one casino.

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Mr. E. V. Waller, chair of Adwest Group.

have built on 11 acres of 13 per cent rate. Considerable profits will be taken the scheme is finished. A site at Woodley area, where some 160 to 17 developed acres remain, see some activity soon.

Capital spending, which has been running at an annual of around £3m, is projected to a maximum level of £7m-£8m this time.

Shareholders, who in 1977, with an 8.06 per cent share, are to receive a shadowed net final dividend of 6.5p per share dividend lifts the total by 29 per cent to 10p, equivalent to 14.92 per cent gross level.

CD Bramall going well but deliveries crucial

Good progress is reported in the first half of the year by C. D. Bramall, the Bradford-based Ford main dealer, since they came to the market by way of a placing earlier this year. In the six months to end-June, pre-tax profits rose by 26.2 per cent to £745,000 on turnover 29.6 per cent ahead at £11.59m. The board did not make a profit forecast for the year, but the first quarter's profits were 27.5 per cent ahead. An interim dividend of 2.65p gross is being paid, which is in line with the board's estimates.

Bramall's dealerships hold a record number of orders for new Ford cars, vans and trucks.

Morgan Edwards on the way back

Prospects seem to be brightening for Morgan Edwards, the

Shrewsbury-based food distribution group which plunged heavily into losses in 1977-78. At yesterday's annual meeting, the acting chairman, Mr. M. A. Grant, said that management was working towards improving the trading position of the ongoing operations and that the plan of action was "proceeding satisfactorily". He confirmed that by the end of the year Morgan would be in a position to pursue opportunities for internal growth and for acquisition.

Associated Dairies see spending rise

The board of Associated Dairies is "cautiously optimistic", Mr. A. N. Stockdale, chairman, says in his annual report. There is already a perceptible increase in spending, he adds.

Asda's "Superstores", which were in course of development in 1977-78, are now trading. Planning permissions have been granted to ensure a similar number of store openings, both in the current year and in 1979-80.

Wilson Walton Eng move to £883,000

Wilson Walton Engineering on turnover for 1977 up from £10.3m to £15.4m reports pre-tax profit of £883,000 (against £717,000). The profit takes account of the current status of negotiations on two major contracts, the total value of which is estimated at £10.5m. Of this, £8.3m has already been settled.

The company states that the final settlement of the contracts may have a material bearing on the 1977-figures and may lead to an adjustment in the future.

Parcor first-half more than doubles

Paris—First-half net profits of Societe Parcor, a small pharmaceutical concern, have more than doubled to 15.47m francs (about £1.8m) from 7.54m francs in the similar 1977 period.

The shares, listed on the cash market of the Paris Bourse, have been one of the star performers this year. From a 1978 "low" of 220 francs, they are now trading at 3,074 francs, due more to expectations of the company's longer-term expansion than to anticipated 1978 earnings. Interest in Parcor was aroused by the company's new drug, Ticlopidine, expected to go on sale next year in

France and abroad. Its exploitation of Britain and the Commonwealth is to be handled by Imperial Chemical Industries. AP—Dow Jones.

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Mysterious Men/Sabb

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Tighter market puts check on Parker Knoll

By Victor Felstead

A depressed consumer market, held back by Government-imposed credit restrictions brought in a 24 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £1.7m for the furniture manufacturer Parker Knoll in the year to July.

Knoll's trading profit fell from £2.2m to £1.9m and the fabric as well as furniture division experienced the drop in demand, says Mr. Martin Jourdan, chairman. Profit reduction was most acute during the first half to January 31 when the group made £629,000 before tax. The corresponding figure for the previous year was £1m.

Profits from the furniture division were also reduced by the £2,000 cost of reorganising production control systems.

Sales were running at record levels in the last quarter as the division began to take advantage of the improvement in our production and selling system, he said.

Mr. Jourdan expects to improve as home demand increased with the

Briefly

Bid mooted as Enalon suspended

Enalon Plastics was poignantly suspended yesterday with its announcement that it is considering takeover of a private co. "substantial in relation to Enalon".

The Kent-based co. which manufactures and sells plastic components in laminated tubes and mouldings, said it was at a preliminary stage agreement would depend on the number of factors involved, including the company's report. There is nobody available for comment yesterday.

Enalon's pre-tax profit for 1977-78 for the year to June 1977. The board said an interim stage in May this year, despite the outlook being clouded by the prospect of a general election and conflicting economic indicators.

Overall, Mr. Jourdan is confident that the current year's results will exceed those of last year, despite the outlook being clouded by the prospect of a general election and conflicting economic indicators.

BLACK ARROW GROUP

Premises at Arkwright Road, Reading, are now to be sold by public auction. Mr. A. Ed. chairman, told the annual meeting. This followed success that the proposed sale of the premises (controlled by two Black Arrow directors) be bettered.

WESTERN AREAS GOLD

Western Areas has 178,100 ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 150,000 are held by the company. The company is now in a position to obtain long-term loans on favourable terms and to pay dividends on the basis of the 1977-78 financial year.

ROCKWARE-ALIDA

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INITIAL SERVICES

Of the 10.6m new or shares issued by way of a 10.6m shares (96.2 per cent) taken up.

GLENDON INVEST TRUST

Company has made further borrowing of £1.5m for per two years. The proceeds will be used to £500,000 which matures on 1st 1981. Balance for further investment.

SCOTT BAKER-STAND

GLASSFIBRE

Whole of share capital of £100,000, largest United Kingdom distributor of glass fibre being acquired by Scott Baker-Stand.

ALLIED BREWERIES—J. I.

Acceptances for first profit 92.7 per cent; second profit 77.4 per cent; third profit 85.2 per cent. Offer accepted and remain open. Dealings in Allied ordinary shares open.

Options

Chambers & Fargus

Chambers & Fargus, a London-based company, has announced that it has received an offer for its shares from a private company. The offer is for 100 per cent of the company's shares at a price of 1.5p per share. The company's shares are currently trading at 1.2p per share.

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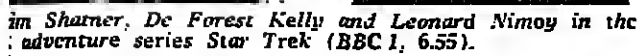
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Edited by Peter Davalle

RADIO



ve of today's radio programmes remind us of the debt we to two Americans whose songs have become part of our day existence. Gershwin (Radio 2, 10.02 pm) is a collection of misnomers and musical numbers, and on Radio 4 at 12.20, Jay Lerner, lyrics writer for shows such as *My Fair Lady* and *High Society*, talks about his own life and selects some favourite songs in *Desert Island Discs*.

T THE SYMBOLS MEAN : † STEREO ; * BLACK AND WHITE
REPEAT.

Home: How to make candles and how to work with resin to preserve dried wild flowers.
1.00. News, with Peter Sissons.
1.20- Thames News: local round-up.
1.30. Crown Court: a new case begins. A Greek-Cypriot is accused of a knife attack on a Turkish-Cypriot.
2.00. After Noon: Nicholas

4.20, Get it Together: pop music show. Guests include Suzi Quatro and Mike Moran and his Band.
4.45, Magpie: Mick Robertson interviews Spike Milligan.
5.15, Emmerdale Farm: some strange questions about Annie and Joe Sugden.
5.45, News.

12.00, Lou Grant: newspaper series. Drama about a jumble jet in trouble over Los Angeles.
12.55 am, Close: Sibeliu music over pictures of Finland.

Diary, 6.35, The
 7.30, Thames, 10
 10.30, Thames,

What's On.
Wed. 3.20
Ice. 5.45.

Scott's

LS-ROYCE Car Hire Service
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229 1947; 8498 or 743 4049,

(continued on page 26)

London: 1941-1942

